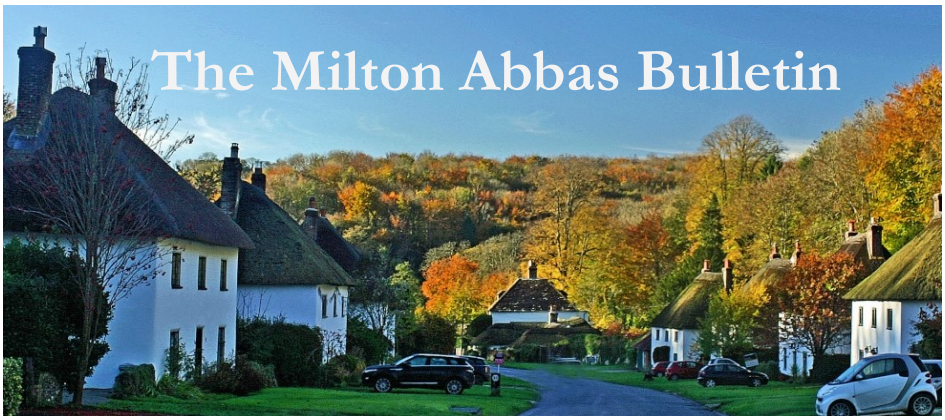
November 2026

Issue 27



Welcome!

Hello and welcome to our November edition!

November is the month of the year that can be quite divisive amongst people. A month full of beauty, so let us marvel as the leaves fall from the trees and create such a gorgeous autumnal landscape all around us. The temperature is definitely feeling cooler, so it's time to get out those thick coats and hats.

However, that's not to say November isn't a brilliant month, so let's have a look and celebrate some of the things that makes November particularly special. Firstly it is the host month for many 'national' celebrations, both solemn and joyous - Remembrance Day, celebrations of Diwali and the irreverent Guy Fawkes Night, along with Thanksgiving to name a few.

Guy Fawkes' Night or Bonfire Night celebrates the capture and execution of Guy Fawkes, an attempted terrorist who tried blowing up the Houses of Parliament centuries ago. Oddly enough, this event is celebrated with toffee apples and Catherine wheels!

Remembrance Sunday church services, parades and events are held on the closest Sunday to Remembrance Day. The date 11th November was chosen because that was the day the armistice was called for World War 1 in 1918, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month. It is sometimes referred to as Poppy Day, as poppies were chosen to symbolise Remembrance because poppies were a common sight during WW1, especially on the Western Front. They flourished in the soil churned up by the fighting and shelling. They seemed to show that out of the horror of war could come beauty, new life and hope. We take the time to honour those who have served and sacrificed, including armed forces and emergency services and people affected by war.

Rugby League World Cup is midway through, held every four years; the 2026 tournament is being hosted by Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

November is World Vegan Month and also holds a Number Confidence Week from the 2nd November. Number confidence improves opportunities and life chances for all, and hopes to help us feel better about numbers. Check out the website: - https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/numberconfidenceweek

The same week is shared with Green Careers Week, an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes, and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Here is their website: - https://greencareersweek.com/

The birthstone for November is Topaz. Topaz brings joy, generosity, abundance and good health. It is known as a stone of love and good fortune. It can help to release tension, and induce relaxation. The Chrysanthemum is the birth flower, standing for Compassion, friendship and joy. Different colours have different meanings: Red is for love, white means innocence, and yellow denotes unrequited love.

Famous people born in November include TV chef Gordon Ramsay, legendary British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, American novelist Mark Twain, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Vikki Ford (20th), Simon Martin (24th) and martial arts legend Bruce Lee.

Happy November everyone, stay warm as winter really starts to get going from later in the month. Mr Ed won't be happy, as he doesn't like the cold!

Hot Chocolate anyone?

Mrs Ed x

MA Surgery

Thank you

We would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff who gave up their Saturdays to help run our annual Flu and COVID clinic.

We would also like to make a special mention of David Norman who helped with car parking, and our amazing surgery Health Champion volunteers Barbara Keene, Dotti Bryan, Jacqui Vallard, Jenny Norman, and Kay Leigh who looked after the team with a constant supply of refreshments.

Finally, thank you to Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall, and Dunbury Academy for use of your courts for patient parking.

Carers Rights Day 19th November 2026

Carers Rights Day plays a crucial role in increasing awareness about the challenges faced by carers and to help carers get the support they need. The theme for this year is "Someone you know is a carer – but do they know it yet?".

You might not see yourself as a carer – often we just help family or friends without thinking twice. But if someone relies on your support due to illness, disability, age, mental health, or addiction, you are a carer.

If you haven't already, please let the surgery know if you care for someone. It helps us understand your situation and offer the right support and we can add this to your medical record.

For all your caring and for all your caregiving – thank you!

Surgery Community Coffee Morning

We would like to warmly invite all our unpaid carers, veterans, and anyone else who would like a cuppa and some company to our next coffee morning at Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall on **Tuesday 24th November 2026** 10.30am till 12.00noon.

Some of our Surgery Health Champions will be there to chat about the local groups they run, and our Social Prescribing Team will be available to answer questions about local support and activities.

Tea, coffee and cake will be available. Please feel free to just turn up on the day. We would love to see you!

MA Surgery (cont.)

Think Pharmacy First

Pharmacy First offers advice and treatment for seven common conditions, including sore throats, earache, sinusitis and UTIs. Pharmacists can also examine, give advice on, and treat a wide range of skin conditions and insect bites.

Also, as in Dorset we are no longer able to routinely prescribe for minor conditions such as hay fever, colds and indigestion, your pharmacist is a great first point of contact for advice on managing these ailments. And many pharmacies are open at weekends too!

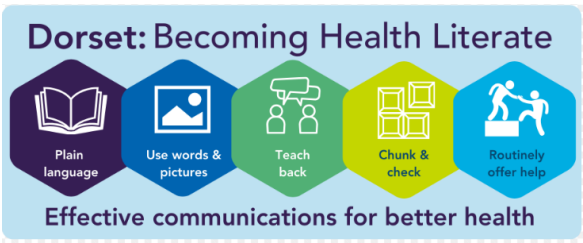
Just to reassure you, we're not trying to put anyone off contacting the surgery - we're still here if you need us. However, your local pharmacy may be able to help you get the care you need more quickly, while helping to keep GP appointments available for those who need to see a doctor.

Milton Abbas Neighbourcar

As most of you will be aware, Milton Abbas Neighbourcar is a voluntary service helping patients get to and from medical appointments. Could you help keep this valuable service going?

Neighbourcar are looking for more volunteer drivers. If you have some spare time and would like to make a real difference in our community, they would love to hear from you.

Interested? Please call 01258 470333 to find out more.



Coffee, bacon, breakfast rolls and cake pop up café here in Milton Abbas

Hello fellow Villagers,

Thank you so much for supporting our successful bacon butty, cake and coffee event in the Reading Room on 24th October.

We are absolutely thrilled with the amount of support, and we thank you.

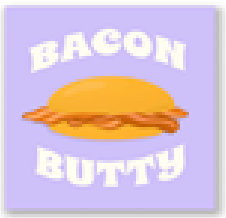
We raised just over £300 for St James Church! Woohoo!

The next event will take place on the 4th Saturday of the month, falling on 28th November, but this time it is being held within the South Aisle of St James Church itself.

10am until 12 noon.







Milton Abbas Local History Group

Milton Abbas Local History Group and its research

Hello to all our readers.

At our meeting last month Tony Burch was appointed as our new Treasurer and Simon Martin and Deb Paterson remain as Chairman and Secretary respectively. Many thanks to them for keeping the history group going. The AGM was followed by Pamela Phillips' talk on the making of 'Pubs, Ponds and Power' for the BBC. This has been broadcast many times and in many countries and whenever it is shown we notice an increase in the number of visitors to our website. The program is usually available on BBC iPlayer. However, Pamela explained that there is much more material that was filmed but remained on the 'cutting room floor' - including several hours in what came to be known as 'history HQ' aka Pamela and Bryan's office, an interview with Michael McAvoy and a whole history group meeting.

The talk next month on Wednesday 4 November in the Reading Rooms as usual, will be by Bryan Phillips on the Milton Abbey Priory Archive which is a long parchment roll held in the Dorset History Centre and is one of the very few surviving documents of Milton Abbey. It is a rather strange collection of copies of twenty earlier documents including a description of the parish boundary of 1384 which remains much as today. Boundaries between parishes were so much more important then before maps and the Ordnance Survey and the Roman Church included a Rogation Day when a priest would lead a procession around the boundary and the parishioners would 'beat the bounds' - a tradition which lasted into the 19th century in many places.

For a list of future talks see any page of our website:

https://miltonabbashistorygroup.com/



thanks all
Bryan

Milton Abbas Friday 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 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-

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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.

'Pop Up' Post Office

Don't forget that our Pop Up Post Office is available every Thursday 9.30-11.00 in The Reading Room

Milton Abbas Moveable Feast

(an 'around the houses' supper party)

Saturday 7 November 2026 at 7pm

Drinks at 7 pm in The Reading Room, locations around the village for food then finishing at St James's Church for coffee and pudding

Cost £10 per person

All proceeds to Tregonwell Almshouse Trust and St James's Church

For more details contact Susie or Mark Castle-Smith on markcs@btinternet.com

Tel: 07971 886290 or 07843 271470

Hosts are critical to the success of the event so please do consider whether you could host a starter or main course. Hosting means feeding an extra 2 – 8 people,

Milton Abbas
18th Century
Street Fair

MILTON ABBAS 2027 STREET FAIR

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The 2027 Milton Abbas Street Fair will be held in July next year. At this time the Trustees of the Fair are seeking bids for funding from the 2027 Fair.

Organisations wishing to bid for funds to support projects or initiatives in the local area should contact John Widdowson, preferably by email at masftrust@gmail.com, to request an application form.

Alternatively telephone: 01258 837791.

Forms should be returned by 1st December 2026 for consideration by the Trustees.

As a guide bids should be for funding up to a maximum of £1000.

John Widdowson,
Secretary,
Milton Abbas Street Fair.

Milton Abbas Art Group

Members of the Milton Abbas Art Group recently enjoyed a fantastic, hands-on workshop led by artist and group member Natasha Barr. We created detailed impressions in clay using collected foliage, shells, and natural items, before taking plaster casts of our designs. There was great fun and anticipation in the room as we waited for the plaster to set- and absolute delight when we unmoulded them to reveal the finished pieces!

Looking ahead, we are now busy preparing for our Christmas Craft Fayre! We have been hard at work creating original artwork, homemade stocking fillers, unique crafts, ceramics, and festive greeting cards.

When: Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th November, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Come along and join us for a gorgeous Christmas shopping experience - we would love to see you there!

Email: miltonabbasart@gmail.com

Website: https://miltonabbasart.wixsite.com/miltonabbasart

Instagram: miltonabbasartgroup1

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/MiltonAbbasArtGroup











Milton Abbas

Christmas Gift Fayre

Reading Room

28th & 29th Nov

11am - 4pm

Mulled Wine

Mince Pies

Gifts

Cards



Milton Abbas Art Group

Thought for the Month

A Season of Remembering

Every Christmas Eve, following the death of my dad, a lady called Tricia would turn up at our house carrying a turkey for our Christmas dinner and presents for my brother and me. It became something of a tradition. The turkey seemed to grow each year in proportion to our own growth, until by the time we were teenagers it had become so enormous that Mum had to perform a little surgery on it just to get it into the oven!

It was a simple act of kindness, repeated year after year, but one that has stayed with me. One of my favourite books is called Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People. I love that title because I think Tricia was one of those accidental saints. Someone who probably wouldn't have thought of herself as particularly saintly, but whose quiet generosity made a real difference to our family.

November is traditionally a season of remembering in the Church. It begins with All Saints' Day on 1st November, when we remember the saints, both the famous names of history and the countless others whose lives of faith and love have largely gone unnoticed. The following day, All Souls' Day, gives us an opportunity to remember those we have loved and lost, those who have shaped our lives and whom we see no longer.

Then comes Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, when we pause to remember those who have died as a result of war, reflect on the cost of conflict and renew our commitment to peace. This year, our village Remembrance Sunday service will take place at Milton Abbey on Sunday 8th November at 10:30am, together with Milton Abbey School.

It's always a special occasion when the village and school come together, young and old, to remember those who have gone before us and particularly those who gave their lives in war. Whether you come to church regularly, occasionally, or haven't been for years, I really hope you'll feel able to join us. It would be lovely to see you there.

We will also be gathering at the war memorial at St James' Church, Milton Abbas, on Wednesday 11th November, shortly before 11am, for a short and simple act of remembrance, including the traditional two-minute silence. Do come along if you can.

These moments of remembering belong to the whole community, and everyone is very welcome.

Of course, remembering isn't just about great events in history or famous names. One of the great privileges of being a priest is hearing stories about the many accidental saints who live in our villages. People who quietly look out for a neighbour, offer a lift, check in on someone who is struggling, volunteer their time or simply notice when somebody needs a bit of kindness. Many would never claim to be particularly religious, let alone saintly. Yet I often find that they show me something of what it means to follow Jesus, whether or not they would describe themselves as people of faith.

I increasingly think that God is rather less interested in the categories and boxes we create than we are.

Love, generosity and compassion have a wonderful habit of appearing in the most unexpected people and places. So perhaps this November, alongside remembering those who have gone before us, we might also take a moment to notice the accidental saints who are still very much among us. Who are the people whose kindness has made a difference to your life? Who has quietly been there when you needed them? And perhaps, without even realising it, whose life might you have made a difference to?

My prayer is that we might become a little better at noticing these people, thanking them, and perhaps becoming accidental saints ourselves.

With my prayers and good wishes to everyone in the village,

Rev'd Lewis Pearson

the WI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Christmas Party and Craft Making

Thursday 17th December 2026

7pm

At the Old Brewery Hall in Ansty



The Hambro Arms



Opening Hours:

Mon & Tue: Closed
Wed - Fri: 5pm - Close
Sat: 12pm-Close
Sun: 12pm– 6pm





www.thehambroarms.co.uk/

info@thehambroarms.co.uk

01258 721594



Christmas at The Hambro Arms!



Milton Abbas Lunch Club

The Famous Milton Abbas Lunch Club continues to delight!

The nest sitting shall be on 11th November.
Mains is yet to be decided, but desert will be Sticky Toffee Pudding!

Please let Jennifer know if you'd like to join in by 6th Nov via:
hrrssnsup@aol.com

(The price remains a terribly reasonable £5 per head, payable to Trevor Payne on the door)



Steeptonbill Farm Shop

Selling fresh, locally-grown produce all year round!

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

Steeptonbill Farm Shop

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

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.

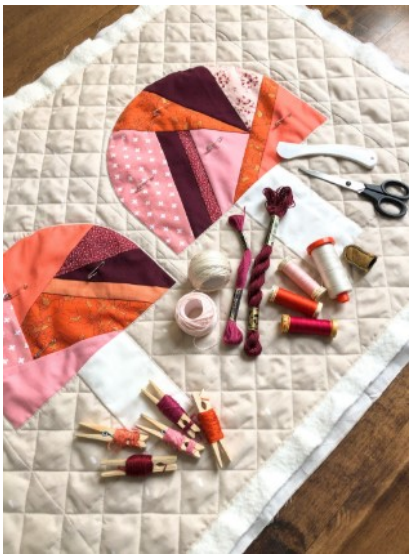
All are welcome! It is a great way to meet other villagers and catch up on things.

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**

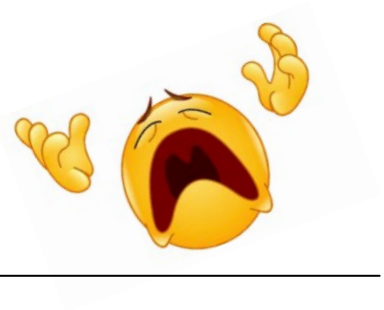
October Picture Quiz Result:





Last months picture was part of one of the drive-way pillars at the top of The Street.

See if you can guess who spotted it first…



November 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