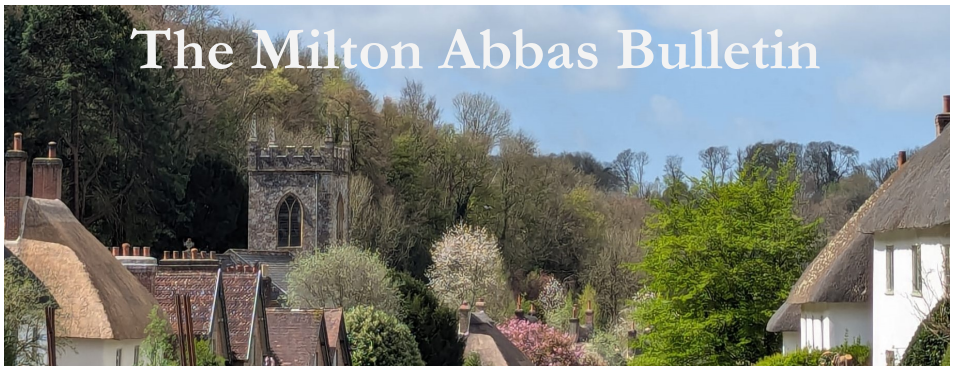
September 2026

Issue 25



Welcome!

Welcome to our September bulletin!

Sadly it is the time to say good bye to summer and return to school and work after our summer breaks. The weather is beginning to cool and early signs of the changing season are starting around us. As we head towards autumn, celebrating Harvest festival and many other splendid things, we start with snack-tember, 1st - 30th, simply aimed to help children and young people have healthier and more sustainable snacks. National wildlife day is 4th September, followed by "celebrate bacon" and "world beard" day on the Saturday 5th September. Read a book day is 6th September, a fantastic way to stimulate the mind and it can also slow down the mental effects of age and dementia, a great excuse to put our feet up and curl up with a book!

Zero waste week is 7th - 13th September, this international social media campaign is to help householders, businesses, schools and community groups increase recycling, reduce landfill waste and participate in the circular economy. It is immediately followed by Recycle awareness week.

Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year festival falls on 11th -13th September. It is marked by the blowing of the shofar, a ram's horn, and begins the ten days of penitence culminating in Yom Kippur. It is celebrated by eating festive meals and the lighting of candles.

From 11th - 20th September, thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences - all of which are FREE to explore. https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/

The annual British Science Festival takes place in Southampton this year (16th - 20th September) Aimed at an adult audience, it covers science topics from health to history, engineering, nature and technology. https://britishsciencefestival.org/

The Marine Conservation Society is dedicating 18th September – 27th to the Great British beach clean; this is a week-long citizen science event, where hundreds of beach cleans take place up and down the UK.
https://www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/beach-clean/gbbc/

The autumn equinox falls on September 23rd at 01.05BST and on this day it is traditional to watch the sun rise, and many people converge on ancient sites such as Stonehenge in Wiltshire to witness it.
We have National Doodle day on 25th. Doodle Day is a fundraising event for the National Epilepsy Society. Hundreds of artists, illustrators and celebrities have picked up their pens, pencils and paints to create original artworks which are auctioned to raise money:
https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/involved/fundraising/national-doodle-day

September's birthstone is the Sapphire and the birth flowers are Aster (purity, wisdom) and Morning Glory (affection) The Birthday girl this month is Arabella De Steiger Khandwala on 19th sharing the day with our very own M.A. fun dog show!

We hope that this Autumn brings you the courage to start afresh, with resilience to fight against the odds, kindness that warms people's hearts, wisdom to find the right direction and strength to keep moving forward.

Remember how valued and special you are.

Stay Safe! Mrs Ed x

Milton Abbas Lunch Club

The Famous MA Lunch Club is resuming following the August break!

It will restart on 9th September, with Jane and Freddy showcasing mains & desert. At the time of writing their intents are still shrouded in mystery, but it's bound to be wholesome, nutritional and delicious!

Please let Jennifer know if you'd like to join in by 4th Sep via:

hrrssnsup@aol.com

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



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.

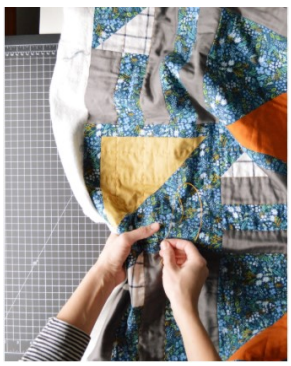
All are welcome! It is a great way to meet other villagers and catch up on things.

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**

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.

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,

however many you feel you can fit around your table, and/or maybe you would like to donate a pudding.

Organised by the Tregonwell Almshouse Trust together with St James's Church

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Milton Abbas Local History Group

There is even more history in Milton Abbas houses just waiting to be researched - we already have detailed records available of the names and where they lived going back to 1771, a few years before the old town was demolished and the new village built, going through the 1932 sale to the present.

One of our members has made an exciting find at the The National Archives.- the Probate of John Damer who shot himself in August 1776. He was the eldest son of Lord and Lady Milton. He had a long list of debts and was addicted to the gaming table and the turf and was living at St George's Square, London at the time in the Damer's London residence.
Although he was lodging at the Bedford Arms tavern, Covent Garden and shot himself there. From this document we may find out much more about his life and his possessions and his difficult marriage to the great sculptress and lifelong friend of Horace Walpole - Lady Anne Seymour Damer.

If anyone is interested in following this up then please get in touch on our website's Contact page.

Our new season of talks starts on **7th October in the Reading Rooms at 7:30pm**.

This will feature the TV programme 'Pubs, Ponds and Power' and the involvement of Pamela and Bryan Phillips in the making of it from the first knock on our front door to the editing of it. There will be a short AGM to start.

We very much look forward to meeting you there.

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



Supporting
WE ARE MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT

St James Milton Abbas

Macmillan Coffee Morning

22nd September 10am to 12md.

Please bring a raffle prize

MA Surgery

Know your Numbers!

Know your Numbers! Week is a campaign that occurs annually during the second week in September created to raise awareness about high blood pressure. High blood pressure usually has no symptoms, so the only way to know you have it is to have a blood pressure check.

It's easy to get checked. Most pharmacies offer a walk-in service. You can phone the surgery and ask to be booked in with one of our Nurses. Alternatively, you can measure your blood pressure at home. As a general guide, high blood pressure is considered to be 140/90mmHg or higher.

If after taking a week's readings (three times each day whilst you are resting) your average blood pressure reading seems high, please send in your results using the Contact Us online form (this can be found by going to our surgery website www.masurgery.co.uk and then clicking on 'Contact Us Online') so that a GP can take a look and suggest next steps.

Medication Queries

Requesting a medication that's not on your repeat prescription?

If the medication you need isn't listed on your repeat prescription (an acute prescription), please use the Contact Us Online form on our website. Simply visit **www.masurgery.co.uk**, click **"Contact Us Online"**, choose **"Medication Query"**, and let us know which medication you need and why you're requesting it.

Using the online form helps us manage requests more efficiently, keeps a clear record of your query, and ensures we have all the information we need to help you quickly.

You do not need full online access to use this service. However, we would encourage patients to sign up for online services if possible, as it makes managing your healthcare even easier. Thank you for your support in helping us provide the best possible service.

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. Invitations for eligible patients should be sent out in September. Further details including flu clinic dates for eligible patients under 64yrs old and whether we will also be doing Covid vaccinations, will also be found on our surgery website news section in September.

MA Surgery (cont)

Community Coffee Morning

We would like to warmly invite all unpaid carers and anyone else who would like a cuppa and some company to our next coffee morning at Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall on **Tuesday 8th September 2026** 10.30am till 12.00noon.

Whether you would like to come on your own for some 'me time' or with the person you care for, it would be great to see you. Tea, coffee and cake will be available.

Please feel free to just turn up on the day. We would love to see you!

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 and the agenda for the upcoming one, please see our surgery website www.masurgery.co.uk/patient-participation-group-1





The Hambro Arms

New 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



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 French Onion Soup using some of Steve's ingredients:

https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/french-onion-soup



Thought for the Month

No thought for the month as Reverend Lewis is just returning from his sab-batical.

This began on 1st June, and he has been maintaining a blog called 'sacred pause' containing 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

We look forward to welcoming Lewis back , hopefully restored, reflective and revitalised!



Milton Abbas Art Group

Unleash your creativity as Milton Abbas Art Group returns!

Are you looking to carve out a couple of hours a week for yourself and get creative? The Milton Abbas Art Group is kicking off its autumn term after the summer break, and we would love for you to join us.

Whether you are a seasoned painter or haven't picked up a brush since school, everyone is welcome. We cater to all abilities and explore a wide variety of media, and if you're keen to try something new, we have supplies (like oil paints) ready for you to experiment with.

Our upcoming schedule features a mix of member-led activities and sessions with visiting external artists.

When: Mondays, starting **7th September, from 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

Where: The Reading Room, Milton Abbas

Cost: Around £50 for the full year (we keep fees as low as possible to keep art accessible to all) the final cost will be decided before our AGM on the 21st September.

There's no pressure to sign up for the whole year right away. Feel free to drop in for a couple of weeks, meet the group, and try before you commit to see if it's the right fit for you.

Interested or have a few questions? Drop us an email at **miltonabbasart@gmail.com** - we'd love to hear from you!





Milton Abbas Fun Dog Show

in aid of St James Church

Saturday 19th September 2026

At Milton Abbas Sports Ground, Hoggens Down, DT11 0BB

Most Fabulous Fella - Best Male Dog - 1 yr +
Loveliest Lady - Best Female Dog - 1 yr +
Cool Pup - Best Puppy - 6 months - 1 yr
Best Rescue Dog
Dog with the Waggiest Tail
Golden Oldie - Best Dog Over 10 Years
Best Trick
Ending with **Overall winner of show**

£2.00 per category

Guest judge is Leanne Stephenson-Home

Refreshments will be available, water to wine tombola, ice-cream van and a raffle in aid of Milton Abbas Sports ground

The sports ground will be open from 12.30pm onwards to come and register your dog
Dog show starts at 2pm





Pews News

September 2026

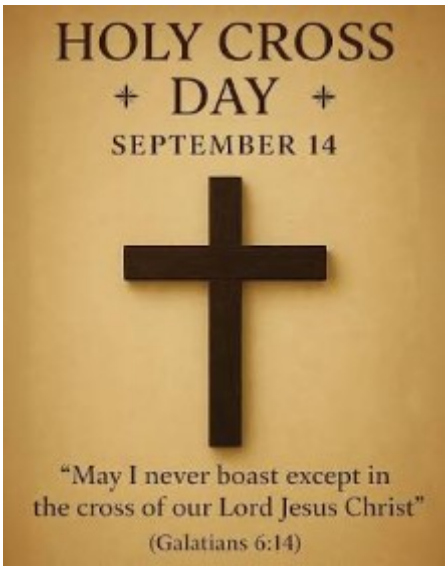
Services in September

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



Bible Readings

Sunday 6th September - 14th after Trinity
Exodus 12. 1 - 14/Matthew 18. 15 - 20

Sunday 13th September- 15th after Trinity
Genesis 50. 15 - 21/Matthew 18. 21 - 35

Sunday 20th September - 16th after Trinity
Exodus 16. 2 - 15/Matthew 20. 1 - 16

Sunday 27th September - 17th after Trinity
Exodus 17. 1 - 7/Matthew 21. 23 - 32

Upcoming Events

Milton Abbas 30th August 11am - 4pm Bacon butties, cream teas & cake in Reading room for St James church

Stickland Fete 5th September

Whitechurch 6th September 4 - 6.30pm Doggy Treasure

Houghton 13th September 4.30pm Outdoor harvest

Whitechurch 18th September 7pm Geoff - Sound Engineer £10

St James - Milton Abbas
19th September - dog show 2pm on the sports field

St James, Milton Abbas
Macmillan coffee morning 22nd September 10am - 12md

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

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

Rev'd Lewis - Sabbatical

he should be back by 1st September

https://mysabbaticaljourney2026.wordpress.com

August Picture Quiz Result:



Last month's picture was of one of the carvings on the gate posts by the Lower Lodge - basically the track that leads from there to Abbey School (but visible from the road)

I don't even want to tell you who got it right….

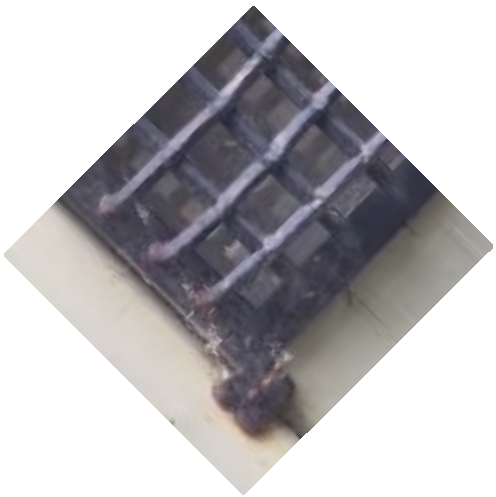
Again...

September 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