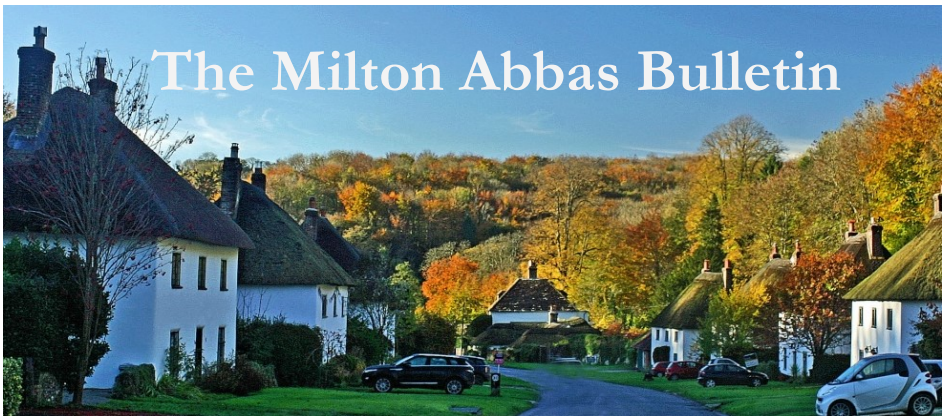
October 2026

Issue 26



Welcome!

Wow, October already?

Autumn is well and truly showing that it is here, it is one of my personal favourite seasons, full of exciting changes! From colourful leaves, pumpkin treats, crunchy cobb nuts underfoot, a welcome Indian summer and beautiful skies, there's so much to love about this time of year.

Here is a mixture of fun facts and poignant historical moments for the month of October for you… the leaves change colour because the green chlorophyll in the leaves breaks down, revealing the other colours that were hiding all along. The trees lose their leaves in a process called abscission which helps the trees conserve water and energy during the cold winter months. The leaves form a beautiful carpet of colours on the ground before decomposing and turning into nutrients for the soil.

Autumn is a busy time for squirrels, collecting and storing food like acorns and nuts to last them through the winter, and of course, some birds migrate south for the winter. Pumpkins are the most famous autumnal fruit, belonging to the gourd family, and are 90% water? The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed over 2,700 pounds - that's heavier than a small car! Autumn is also the best time for apple picking, please feel free to go scrumping up in our village millennium green - there is a small orchard there with gorgeous apples for all to enjoy.

Halloween is an annual celebration observed in several countries on October 31st, which is the eve of All Hallows' Day. The belief is that on this day, spirits can roam the earth freely. People often wear costumes and disguises to mark the occasion, and more sweets are sold this time of year than any other.

Don't forget to look upwards this month, as the night sky changes with the seasons. One of the most famous constellations visible in autumn is Pegasus, the winged horse in Greek mythology. You can also spot the Andromeda Galaxy, the closest large galaxy to our own.

October also marks historically the year that in the year 1283 Dafydd ap Gruffydd, Prince of Wales, became the first nobleman in Britain to be hanged, drawn and quartered. 1911 marked Britain's first escalator opening at London's Earls Court and In 1930 the British airship R101 crashed near Beauvais, France killing 48 people. Women become eligible for admission as full members of Oxford University and were given the right to take degrees in 1920 and in 1967, Transport Minister, Barbara Castle, introduced the breathalyser, offering a way of testing a person's BAC (blood alcohol concentration) level at the roadside.

Also this month marks Richard and Jill Jordan's 31st wedding anniversary on 7th Oct, and Mr Ed and I mark our own on the 24th, lagging behind at 28 years!

October is associated with two birthstones: tourmaline and opal and the Calendula (daisy) is the customary flower associated with the month of October.

Lastly, October is a national month of observance for a variety of things:- National Pizza Month, Popcorn Month, Pork Month and Sausage Month. Yum! Plus World Smile Day is observed on the first Friday of every October, encouraging people to spread happiness by smiling and performing small acts of kindness.

So on that note, happy smiling every one and enjoy all that October has to offer!



Regards,

Mrs Ed x

Thought for the Month

Small Seeds, Long Journeys

There's something about this time of year in Milton Abbas. The evenings are drawing in, there's a chill in the air first thing in the morning, and all around us are those little signs that summer is giving way to autumn. It's also the season of Harvest — traditionally a time for stopping, noticing and saying thank you. And perhaps it's the noticing that matters.

As I settle back into life here after three months of sabbatical, one experience from my time away keeps coming back to me. Rather impromptu, in June, I decided to walk St Cuthbert's Way, from Melrose in the Scottish Borders to Holy Island. I'm not entirely sure I knew what I was letting myself in for when I set off! There were some fairly steep climbs, aching legs, blisters, beautiful countryside, some lovely conversations with people I met along the way and a heatwave!

But it's the end of the journey that has stayed with me most. I got up at the crack of dawn and walked to the end of the mainland before walking barefoot across the Pilgrims' Path onto Holy Island. The tide was out allowing safe passage across the causeway via the wooden poles stretched ahead. As I walked, people began coming into my mind — people who had touched my life over the years. Some I see regularly, others I haven't seen for years; some who have encouraged me, challenged me, loved me or simply been there at the right moment. There were people from different chapters of my life, as well as family, friends and people from our villages. I found myself simply giving thanks for them as I walked. It was one of those moments when you become particularly aware of what is around you: the cold sand beneath your feet, the changing light, the water, the huge expanse of sky and that strange, almost haunting sound of seals singing carrying across the causeway. One of those moments you don't really want to end.

Perhaps that's why I've found myself thinking about it again as we approach Harvest. We live in an extraordinarily beautiful part of the world here in Milton Abbas. But perhaps precisely because we see it every day, it can become ordinary.

We stop noticing.

Harvest gives us a nudge to look again.

To notice the fields and gardens around us. To remember the farmers and all those who work on the land. To think about where our food comes from and the many hands involved before it arrives on our tables. But also, perhaps, to notice the people. Harvest is about gratitude, and gratitude is about much more than crops. Who are the people who have helped shape your life? Who encouraged you, taught you, loved you or stood alongside you? Who are the people you perhaps haven't thought about for years, but without whom you wouldn't quite be the person you are today?

During my sabbatical I tried to keep four very simple things at the heart of each day:

prayer, reading, writing and exercise. Nothing particularly dramatic. But perhaps that was part of the lesson. Small things, done regularly, matter. Jesus seemed rather fond of talking about small things too — especially seeds. Tiny things that disappear into the earth and seem to do absolutely nothing for a while. And then, slowly, something begins to grow.

We'll celebrate Harvest at St James', Milton Abbas, at 10.30am on Sunday 11th October, with activities for children as part of the service and a collection for Nourish, Blandford's food bank. Whether you come to church regularly, occasionally, or hardly ever, you would be very welcome.

Perhaps that is the invitation of Harvest: to stop, look around, notice the places and people we so easily take for granted — and simply say thank you.

Blessings

Rev'd Lewis

WINTERBORNE VALLEY & MILTON ABBAS BENEFICE

TURNWORTH | W. STICKLAND | W. WHITECHURCH | W. BOUGHTON | W. CLENSTON | MILTON ABBAS

Faith • Community • Creation • Hope

Harvest FESTIVAL

'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.'

PSALM 24:1

A time to give thanks for God's good creation



SUNDAY
11th OCTOBER

TIME
10:30am

AT
St James' Church
Milton Abbas



Activities for children within the service

HARVEST COLLECTION

Please bring a food donation for **Nourish – Blandford Food Bank**. Together we can support people and families in our local community.

All donations gratefully received.



All are welcome!

Milton Abbas Street Fair 2027!

We are pleased to report that, with less than 10 months to go before the big day, plans are now taking shape nicely.

We have secured some excellent entertainment acts for you and are currently getting some of the essential background logistics into place. However, we do have one vacancy left on the organising committee which we are hoping that someone (please!) will offer to fill!

The position is for our Car Park Organiser

The job involves managing the running of our car parking system, for residents, visitors and stallholders alike, and making sure it runs smoothly on the day! We will have predesignated fields available for parking, both at the top and the bottom of the village, and the plan is to identify 2 or 3 beneficiary applicants for the Street Fair proceeds who are suitably 'people' resourced to provide us with assistants (on shift rotas) to direct cars safely and geometrically efficiently in and out of these parking areas.

The clue is in the job title – our new volunteer will organise this for us! It is perhaps worth pointing out that processes, maps and plans that have been used (successfully) in the past already exist, so (honest guv!) the work involved will be nothing too onerous. But we still need you!

Please, if you are interested get in touch either by phone, text or email and we can talk about it further. Thank you in advance!

Richard

Rmoreton9@gmail.com
07814579246

Milton Abbas Art Group

Milton Abbas Art group started back last month and had a great turn out for the AGM.

The year ahead is planned with a visiting local artist, workshops such as Gelli printing, pottery and lino cuts, and Christmas celebrations. Why not come and show your support in November when the group are holding their first Christmas Gift Fayre – great for finding that perfect individual present for someone special.

Please contact our committee if you would like more information about our art group.

Email: miltonabbasart@gmail.com

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

Instagram: miltonabbasartgroup1

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



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





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 a wide variety of colourful Pumpkins and Squashes - just in time for Halloween

Some great Pumpkin recipes here:

https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/top-20-pumpkin-recipes





MA Surgery

Welcome to the team

We would like to give a warm welcome to Beckie, who is joining our surgery Dispensary Team. We also wish Alice all the best in her maternity leave. We will miss her but look forward to meeting the new arrival!

Stoptober

You are doing the best thing you can for your health by quitting smoking – and you don't need to do it alone. Whether this is your first attempt or you've tried before, the LiveWell stop smoking team can help you choose a free stop smoking offer that works around your life and provide the practical advice to help you stay on track.

They offer one of the most comprehensive ranges of free quit options in the county: group or one-to-one coaching, patches, gum, vapes, medication, Allen Carr Easyway, and a premium quit app. Sign up or find out more at www.livewelldorset.co.uk/stop-smoking.

Milton Abbas Neighbourcar

NeighbourCar is a voluntary organisation offering patients transport to and from medical establishments. To make use of the service you must be registered for which there is a one-off charge of £5 to help cover administration costs.

To book ring 01258 470333, leave a message, and the coordinator will get back to you as soon as possible. Please note they cannot provide a "same day" service due to the voluntary nature of the operation.

They are always looking for more volunteers so if you could spend a little time and would like to join them as a driver, please ring the number above.



MA Surgery (cont.)

On Track

On Track is a dedicated wellbeing event taking place on Thursday 8th October at The Tank Museum, recognising the unique experiences and challenges faced by those in and around the Armed Forces.

The event is open to all members of the Armed Forces community, including regulars and reserves, service families, the bereaved, service leavers, veterans and anyone connected to life in the forces.

With a focus on the power of positive, supportive communities and their impact on mental health and wellbeing, whether you're looking for support, helping someone close to you, or simply want to find out more about the resources available, On Track is here to help.

For more information and to reserve your free ticket, please visit The Tank Museum web-site www.tankmuseum.org/events/on-track

Dorset Blind Association – Low Vision Day

Dorset Blind Association are holding a free information event for anyone affected by sight loss.

When: Saturday 21st November 10am–2pm
Where: The Dorford Centre, Dorchester

Whether you've recently been diagnosed with sight loss, have been living with a visual impairment for many years, or are supporting a loved one, this event is a great opportunity to discover the help, support and services available to help people live independently and confidently. The day will bring together specialists, exhibitors and support organisations from across Dorset, offering information, advice and practical support. Everyone affected by sight loss is welcome.

Milton Abbas Local History Group

Milton Abbas Local History Group and its research

Hello to all our readers.

Some of our members are still busy researching this amazing place with such a long history. Several of us are looking at the medieval abbey and Bryan Phillips' talk at the November meeting will feature an interesting document in the Dorset History Centre. Actually it is a parchment roll written around 1400 onto which has been copied twenty earlier documents.

Clearly the boundaries of Milton Abbey and its other manors were of great concern as there are several detailed descriptions of them. The parish boundary of Milton Abbas and Woolland as described can still be followed today giving us a link to the landscape here about 650 years ago. There have been a few minor changes since the jury who swore on their oath in the eighth year of Richard II's reign - 1384/5 - and we have a perambulation of 1769 to compare it with.

Anne Brown has had part of her research on the lost village of Elston in Sydling St Nicholas (a Milton Abbey manor until the Dissolution) published in the West Dorset Magazine. This village has a lot to tell us on how hamlets and villages became deserted. Historians used to think that the Black Death was mostly the cause, but this is absolutely not the case. Anne has managed to follow the long and slow decline in the fortunes of Elston from the early fourteenth century through the Dissolution and then during its ownership by Winchester College. Some of Milton Abbey's other manors followed a similar fate - for example Lyscombe.

Shirley Chick is continuing to transcribe our records into searchable text. Her latest achievement was the first day of the 1932 Sale of the Milton Abbey Estate by the Hambro family, and she is continuing with the Day 2 sale. These give details of the properties in The Street and gives detailed maps of the plots, the number of rooms of the cottages, the tenants' names and their annual rent - a wonderful resource for house histories.

There is still much to learn about the history of Milton Abbas and many documents still to study at the Dorset History Centre. If anyone would like to help us in this endeavour please get in touch via our website.

Our AGM on 7th October in the Reading Rooms will be followed by a talk by Pamela Phillips on the making of 'Pubs, Ponds and Power' in Milton Abbas, where we are credited as 'historical consultants'. Pamela will talk about the material which ended up on 'the cutting room floor'.

Looking forward to meeting you then,

Bryan Phillips

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 Lunch Club

The Famous Milton Abbas Lunch Club was warmly welcomed back in September following the August break!

The nest sitting shall be on 14th October, with Freddy tackling mains & Paula presenting desert. Mains is likely a Somerset Pork Casserole, and pud is Blackberry & Apple Crumble with custard

Please let Jennifer know if you'd like to join in by 9th Oct 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.

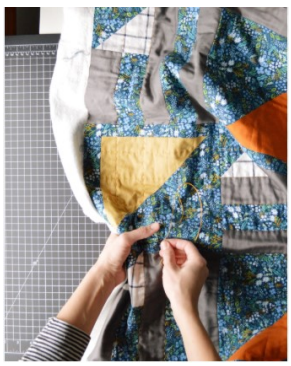
All are welcome! It is a great way to meet other villagers and catch up on things.

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**

After some fraud advice?

We have launched a new telephone fraud advice service called Ask Damian, accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You can call the **Ask Damian** line for instant access to support and guidance to help protect yourself from fraud.



Advice is available on all types of fraud and the service can translate into different languages, making it accessible to a wide range of people across Dorset.

Access Ask Damian by calling 01202 144688

DORSET POLICE

If you have been a victim of fraud, contact the Report Fraud website or call 0300 123 2040.

Fly tipping your waste?

Dorset Council's Environmental Enforcement team has recently been made aware of rogue 'waste collectors' driving around estates, taking items left for collection from resident's gardens, and then dumping anything without any value in the countryside.

Under UK law, your rubbish remains your legal responsibility until it is disposed of legally. If waste from your property (home or business) is removed by unauthorised persons and fly-tipped, you can face unlimited fines or legal action, even if you paid someone else to take it away.

To protect residents from being victims of crime, we would like to reiterate the following.

To ensure compliance with Dorset Council and Environment Agency regulations, we recommend referring to the national **S.C.R.A.P.**code.

Suspect: Assume all waste carriers are unlicensed until you see proof. Be wary of unexpected "man in a van" offers on social media.

Check: Verify the person's Waste Carrier's Licence on the Environment Agency Public Register.

Refuse: Do not use anyone who refuses to provide their licence details, vehicle registration, or an explanation of where the waste is going.

Ask: Ask where the rubbish will be dumped (e.g., licensed transfer station or recycling centre).

Paperwork: Always get a receipt, invoice, or Waste Transfer Note. Business waste producers are legally required to keep these notes for at least 2 years.

Reporting a Breach: If you suspect someone is an unauthorised carrier or has illegally taken and dumped your waste, you can report them directly to the authorities:

Report a rogue trader: You can submit an anonymous tip-off regarding unlicensed waste carriers on Tip-Off - Unlicensed waste carriers - Dorset Council

Report a fly-tip: Use the Dorset Council Fly-Tipping Form or call 01305 221040.

If you suspect your waste has been collected by a rogue trader, Do you have any paperwork, vehicle registration, or contact details for the person who took it? All these can help Dorset Council catch the offenders.

Dorset Council

DORSET POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER DAVID SIDWICK

Pews News

October 2026

Services in October

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER
9am - Turnworth (Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Morning Worship)

SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER
9am - Winterborne Stickland (Prayer Book Communion)
10:30am - Milton Abbas (Harvest)
10:30am - Winterborne Clenston (Harvest Prayer Book Communion)
4:30pm - Winterborne Houghton (Cafe Church)

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER
9am - Milton Abbas (Prayer Book Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Harvest followed by lunch)
11am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Harvest followed by lunch)

SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER
10:30am - Winterborne Houghton (Celtic Communion)
6pm - Milton Abbas (SoulSpace)



Sermons

Lewis has begun posting the text of his sermons at the link below
(website name to be updated in due course

https://mysabbaticaljourney2026.wordpress.com

Services in November

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER
9am - Turnworth (Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Clenston (Prayer Book Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Morning Worship)
3pm - Winterborne Stickland 'Service of Light'
(remembering those who have died)

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
10:30am Winterborne Stickland
(service begins in church and moves to the war memorial at approx 10:50am)

10:30am - Millton Abbey
(a joint village and school Remembrance Service)

10:30am - Winterborne Whitechuch

4:30pm - Winterborne Houghton (Cafe Church)

SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER
9am - Milton Abbas (Prayer Book Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Communion)
4:30pm - Winterborne Whitechurch (Cafe Church)

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER
10:30am - Winterborne Houghton (Celtic Communion)
10:30am - Turnworth (Morning Worship)
6pm - Milton Abbas (SoulSpace)

ADVENT SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
10:30am - Winterborne Houghton (Morning Prayer)
6pm - Winterborne Whitechurch
(Benefice Darkness to Light Advent Service)

Upcoming Events

Harvest Lunch 18th October - Whitechurch
Harvest Lunch 18th October - Stickland

Autumn Fair 14th November - 11am-1pm
Whitechurch Old School Room

St James Quiz night at The Hambro Arms

Bible Readings

Sunday 4th October
17th after Trinity
Philippians 3.4b-14 / Matthew 21.33-46

Sunday 11th October
18th after Trinity
Philippians 4.1-9 / Matthew 22.1-14

Sunday 18th October
St Luke the Evangelist
2 Timothy 4.5-17 / Luke 10.1-9

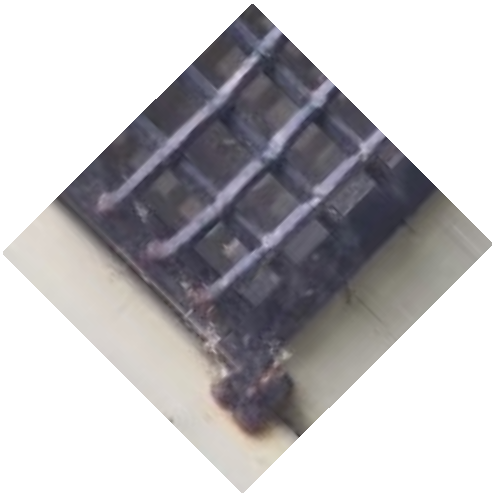
Sunday 25th October
Last Sunday after Trinity
1 Thessalonians 2.1-8 / Matthew 22.34-46

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

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
Churches in the Winterborne Valley & Milton Abbas

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

September Picture Quiz Result:



Last month's picture was correctly and quickly identified by Samantha Smith - Maybe not that surprising as it's part of her front door (Hill Cottage)

Well done Sam, especially for pushing Mr Towers into second place for once!

October 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