

MILBORNE PORT MAGAZINE



JANUARY 2026 50P



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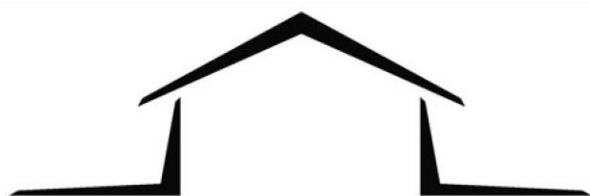
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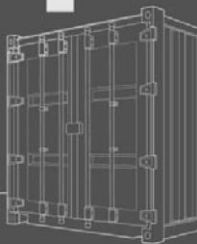
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(Jon Creighton - Workshop Manager)



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A LETTER FROM REV RONA

Welcome to 2026! As we step into a new year, I pray that God's grace, peace, and joy will surround you and those you love.



This year has been set aside across our diocese as a *Year of Prayer*—a wonderful opportunity to deepen our life with God. Each month I hope to reflect on a different way of praying, and for January our theme is *Blessings*. From the familiar “Bless you” after a sneeze to the tender moment of being anointed at life’s end, blessing shapes our language and our lives, often without us noticing its depth or meaning.

In Scripture, blessing expresses God’s generosity, human gratitude, and the desire to wish others well. Today we still use it to offer kindness or encouragement. Although it can sometimes be used lightly or even patronisingly, I want this month to be a deliberate invitation: to bless at least one other person—in word, action, or prayer.

Around Epiphany (6th January), Christians in the Orthodox tradition take part in the ancient ritual of *Chalking the Door*, a simple and beautiful house blessing. This year the letters are **20 C M B 26**:

20 – the century

C M B – *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (“Christ bless this house”), and also the initials of Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar, the traditional names of the Wise Men

26 – the year

If you have some chalk, I encourage you to mark your door lintel with these letters and perhaps offer to do the same for a neighbour as a sign of blessing. You may also wish to pray this prayer:

*God of Light, bless this home.
Make it a haven of rest
for all in need of your warmth and care.
And when we go out from this place,
may we never lose sight of the Epiphany star.
May all who enter, throughout the year, find love and light;
for Christ has come to dwell in this home and in these hearts. Amen.*

May God bless you richly throughout the year ahead. Rev Rona



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS:

PATRICIA MARIGOLD DEWFALL	07/11/2025
ANN HEWLETT	28/11/2025
ROLINDA SHERBURN	02/12/2025
JOHN PATRICK FANNING	08/12/2025
LINDA MARGARET MUMFORD	15/12/2025

Peter Mumford, along with Lizzy, Rhys and Alys, would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards, phone calls and prayers following Linda's death last month. They have meant a great deal to all of us.

The Church House 100 Club was created to support the running costs of the hall, particularly utilities and insurance costs. This raffle is run monthly by the Church House Committee and currently costs just £15 a year, with monthly prizes of £10, £20 and £30 to be won.

There are a number of places available in the 100 Club. If you would like to join and help support this valuable community facility, please email 100club@mpchouse.org.uk.

Ben Grundy



Church House, Milborne Port

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Saturday 31st January

10.30 a.m. until 12.00 noon

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Tea/Coffee and Biscuits**

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Salkeld**

***The Royal British Legion.
Milborne Port and District,
would like to thank Everyone for
their generous donations, this
year.***

We raised £2552.49

Maggie Pelly.



How we get your Parish Magazine to you every month.

Felicity: The **magazine editor** is sent articles by village organisations every month. I have been asked how much it costs to put an article in – nothing. *(Please note that the Editor will prioritise Milborne Port/Wick/Goathill contributors, then from the wider Benefice, then beyond, especially if there are local connections. Sometimes it is necessary to edit contributions because of space restrictions).*

The whole thing is run by volunteers who care about this village. If you wish to place an advert in for your business (which will cost), get in touch with Robin Bawtree – details on page 35 of the magazine. When the deadline has been reached, the magazine is put together and then sent off to Shelleys the Printers. Four days later the magazines are delivered to Richard and Liz who bundle them up ready for the distributors who collect them from Church on the last Friday of the month, and who then take them and deliver them on their “round.”

Richard: **Distributors**: 620 magazines are printed every month. Approximately 500 of these are delivered by the army of volunteers *(everyone involved in the whole process of producing the magazine is a volunteer apart from the printers)*, about 100 are distributed around the village and are sold through local outlets, others are posted. We rely on the advertisers and a great number of volunteers to keep costs as low as possible, so we do not want wastage.

A free magazine is delivered to any house that changes hands which is on each round – this gives the chance to knock on the door and say hello to newcomers.

Magazines are sold through the Church, Waynes Butchers, the Coop, Charlton Horethorne shop, and the Garage.

One of the distributors, Kate, has moved to Sherborne. We are currently short of a couple of magazine distributors, but we are specifically looking for someone to deliver in the Wick Road area starting in the New Year. If you can help, please contact Liz. (Details bottom page 35 in the magazine) **THANKYOU**

Save the Dates:

Marmalade Festival at Frank's Saturday 7th March (Remember to buy your Seville Oranges when they appear in January and get making!)

Saturday 14th March **Yeovilton Brass Band**

7:30pm at The Village Hall

Milborne Port Community Plan: Emergency and Flood Plan Steering Group: 'Milborne Port Prepared'

This steering group had its first meeting on the 19th of November 2025 and made considerable progress in working out how the village can respond to emergencies this winter and beyond. The next meeting will be at the Town Hall at 7 pm on Tuesday 6th January 2026. Please come with your ideas, problems, and thoughts on how we move forward as a resilient parish prepared for anything!



Contact Cllr. Margaret Capon -- for further details.

margaret.capon@milborneport-pc.gov.uk or on
[07445 555445](tel:0744555445)

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- Offers to **volunteer** for occasional collection or distribution
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If you can help us in any way please contact

milborneportfoodshare@gmail.com

or Jacquie

07740 862 823

As we head into a New Year it is nice to reflect upon my top 5
birding highlights of 2025.

In **February** it was lovely to spot Bullfinches at different locations in the village. These secretive birds feed on tree buds and ash keys. Despite the beautiful red colour of the males, they can be difficult to spot. Another finch which is probably top of my list is the Hawfinch. Several of these stunning transient migrants, descended on the churchyard for a few weeks in **March** - much to the delight of many local birders.

Spotting a Kingfisher is always a treat but seeing a mating pair together on several occasions in **April** and **May** was a definite highlight. The size of a Sparrow and bullet fast in flight, we are so fortunate to have these remarkable birds patrolling the River Gascoigne.

Hearing the screams of the first Swifts of the season is unfailingly special. In **May** and **June** I spent many hours watching parent birds tirelessly bringing prey, caught on the wing, to their noisy offspring in nests between the tiles of the church roof.

Finally, in **June** I was witness to a stunning ariel display by a lone Hobby as I stood by Pud Brook. This small agile raptor was chasing



swifts (an ambitious prey given their flight capabilities) banking steeply, diving and rapidly changing direction. It was spectacular and for the first time ever I managed to get a photo!

Jane Hewitt

Milborne Port Village Hall News

Opportunity to join the Village Hall Management Committee

Milborne Port Village Hall is seeking local and engaging volunteers to join our Management Committee.

The Management Committee is responsible for the overall governance, maintenance, and future development of the Village Hall. By joining, you will play a crucial role in ensuring the hall remains a vibrant, well-maintained, and accessible centre for the entire village.

We are looking for individuals who can bring a variety of skills, perspectives, and commitment to help us achieve our goals, and we would welcome applications from anyone in the community to help add diversity and variety to our decision making.

The committee normally meets every other month for about 2 hours, and there may be some commitment required outside of meetings for specific tasks or projects.

If you are interested in dedicating some time and energy to the future of our Village Hall, we would love to hear from you!

Please send a brief expression of interest with your name & contact details, and why you would like to join the committee.

Jimmy Flynn

committee@milborneportvillagehall.org.uk

Find us on Facebook: search Milborne Port Village Hall

News from the Parish Council

The 5-a-side football/basketball MUGA (multi-use games area) at Springfield is now being enjoyed by our sporty residents! If you are



not likely to use it yourself, do tell others about it, and go and have a look, as it is a thing of beauty! And even better, this project was funded at no cost to council taxpayers as the monies came from housing development s106 funding.

January Meetings: Full Council - Tuesday 13th; Planning Committee - Tuesday 20th.

Meetings take place in the Town Hall and start at 7 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can address the meeting with questions or comments from 7-7.15 pm. If you would like to attend but would experience access difficulties, please let us know in advance and we will relocate to the Community Room downstairs.

Please note that our contact details recently changed to:

Simon Pritchard – Parish Clerk parishclerk@milborneport-pc.gov.uk

Nathalie Hetherington – Deputy Clerk office@milborneport-pc.gov.uk

Find us on Facebook! Search: Milborne Port Community Council

Parish Council Website: www.milborneport-pc.gov.uk

Inspire Sessions Bring Learning to Life

These special events gave families the chance to learn alongside their children and experience first-hand the excitement of classroom activities.



Newtown Class (Year 4 and 5)

Highlights included creating beautiful still life artwork.

Venn Class (Year 1 and 2)

The focus was on storytelling and mathematical reasoning. Children particularly enjoyed sharing their learning around the Christmas story and demonstrating how maths is taught through hands-on strategies.

Celebrating Curriculum Success

Year 5 and 6 – Ancient Greece

Learners explored the big question: "Did the ancient Olympic Games empower the people of Greece?" They demonstrated deep research, critical thinking, and a mature understanding of ancient history.

Year 2 and 3 – The Stone Age

"What resources show us what it was like to live in the Stone Age?"

Their curiosity and enthusiasm have been a joy to see.

Choir Achievements

Over the festive season, they have represented the school beautifully at several community events, including:

- The Christmas Light Switch-On
- The Reborne Christmas Event
- The School Christmas Fair

A huge congratulations to all choir members and staff for their dedication and wonderful performances.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work our pupils have put into preparing their Christmas celebrations this year.

We were also pleased to welcome members of our local community who delivered a special *Open the Book* assembly. The children thoroughly enjoyed the storytelling and interactive elements, and we look forward to hosting them again in the future.

Milborne Port Primary School Christmas Fair

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Milborne Port PTFA for organising a truly wonderful Christmas Fair this year. The event was a great success, bringing together families, staff, and members of the local community for an afternoon full of festive fun.

The fair was opened beautifully by our school choir, whose singing set the perfect tone for the celebrations. Visitors enjoyed a wide range of stalls run by local community members, delicious food and drinks, and even the chance to purchase Christmas trees. Children were especially delighted by the games room and, of course, the appearance of the main man himself—Father Christmas!

Thanks to the incredible support from everyone who attended and contributed, we raised an amazing **£1500**. Every penny will go directly towards improving our outdoor learning areas, helping us create inspiring and enriching spaces for all our pupils.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to **Grassroots Garden and Aquatics Centre in Henstridge** for kindly donating a beautiful Christmas tree to our school.

Thank you to everyone in our school community for your ongoing support. We hope you all had a joyful and restful Christmas season.

Carmen Danyali Headteacher

CHURCH SERVICES

(including the Principal Service Readings)

Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St John's: Weekdays at 9 a.m.

Sunday 4th January Epiphany Sunday

Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Blackford
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 pm	Evensong	Stowell

Wednesday 7th January

10:30 am	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Sunday 11th January The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-end

9:30 am	Compton Pauncefoot and Blackford Morning Service	Compton Pauncefoot
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 pm	Evensong	Charlton Horethorne

Wednesday 14th January

10:30 am	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Saturday 17th January

4:00 pm	Memory Lane	Milborne Port
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Sunday 18th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

9:00 am	Blackford and Compton Pauncefoot Morning Service	Blackford
9:00 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Wick
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Maperton
10:30 am	Matins	Milborne Port
6:00 pm	Holy Communion	Charlton Horethorne

FOR JANUARY

Wednesday 21st January

10:30 am	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Sunday 25th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Compton Pauncefoot
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
3:00 pm	Evensong	Goathill

Wednesday 28th January

10:30 am	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Sunday 1st February Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Malachi 3:1-5, Luke 2:22-40

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Blackford
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
12:15 pm	Holy Baptism	Milborne Port
6:00 pm	Evensong	Stowell

Wednesday 4th February

10:30 am	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Sunday 8th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

Romans 8:18-25, Matthew 6:25-end

9:30 am	Compton Pauncefoot and Blackford Morning Service	Compton Pauncefoot
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 pm	Evensong	Charlton Horethorne

Our MP in Parliament Contact:sarah.dyke.mp@parliament.uk

Notes on some of the issues that our local MP, Sarah Dyke, has engaged with recently. Not a party-political pitch, but a record of her actions as our constituency representative.

Sarah submitted a written Parliamentary Question to the Home Secretary asking what urgently needed extra resources Somerset and Avon Police will receive under the Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy.

Sarah asked for a debate on the ticket resale market and on measures needed to protect consumers, event organisers and the wider live music industry.

She asked the Secretary of State what plans the Government has to embed agriculture, environment and food studies into the national curriculum, to inspire the next generation to pursue careers in those sectors.

She called on the Government to act now to stop criminal gangs who are dumping waste at scale across the country. (which threatens an environmental disaster and poses a risk to public health.)

Sarah is urging the Government to change part of the Zoo Licensing Act to exempt domesticated reindeer.

Milborne Port History & Heritage Group

On 8th November 2025, our good friend John Fanning died; he was a committee member, trustee and staunch supporter of our group. As well as having a keen interest in local history, he was extremely knowledgeable on a wide range of subjects, and was a very kind and interesting man, always the gracious host for the Committee meetings that we held in his home. I hope that some readers managed to attend the service for him on 8th December at St John's. We will miss him.





Our next event will be on **Monday 19th January 2026**, when Milborne Port resident Charlotte Carty will present '**In my Grandfather's Footsteps**'.

(This is a repeat of the highly moving and engaging talk that Charlotte gave on 10th May 2025 as part of our VE Day Commemorations. It was so good that we are offering it again to those who missed it

or for those who would like to hear it again!)

The talk will cover the exploits of Lt Col Brown during his days fighting in the Far East in World War Two. The talk will provide a brief overview of the fighting in India and Burma and recount the adventures of the family of Lt Col Brown in 2024 as they re-created the Assam Regiment's 77 mile, 39-hour, non-stop march in the Naga Hills of N E India where the regiment helped to halt the Japanese advance into India.

Join us at Church House in Bathwell Lane for a 7.30 pm start.

We are a charity and ask for a suggested donation of £2 per member or £5 per non-member to cover costs. If you are parking in Bathwell Lane, please do so considerately as it is a bit of a squeeze along there, although less so following the verge clearance than it was!

If you wish to become a member of our group, and we very much hope that you do, please email us: mphhgroup@gmail.com



Nathalie Hetherington, MPH&H Group Secretary

Blackmore Vale



Tuesday January 6th

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GLOVELIES

This has been a very festive month for most of our members, beginning with our coach trip to Exeter at the end of November. We started off on a cold, frosty but sunny morning and by the time we reached Exeter the frost had disappeared, and it was relatively warm but sunny. There was the usual Christmas market and the nativity scene outside the Cathedral and I know at least one of our members went in to view the inside of the cathedral. Two weeks later, eight of us went to the County Carol Service at Wells. This is always a really enjoyable service, preceded by lunch and a wander round the market stalls.

Those of us who attended the Thursday drop in at the end of November, took part in the County Christmas Quiz and enjoyed puzzling over the cryptic answers.

Our December Thursday meeting took place in Something Else Fishy restaurant as they kindly opened up especially for us. We were looked after very well by the staff and, after we finished the delicious fish & chips, we had a Guess the Baby competition and the raffle was drawn. It was a really enjoyable evening.

Our first meeting in January will be on the 8th when there is a change to the advertised programme. Members are asked to bring something relating to their favourite artist. This can be a painter, sculptor, musician or anything that has inspired them - and discuss it.

We continue to serve coffees & teas, plus cake and biscuits on Friday mornings from 10.30am. We will not be open on Boxing Day but, as the library is open on Saturday 27th, we will be serving coffee so if anyone would like a change from staying indoors and celebrating, then please drop it.

In the meantime, can I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Milborne Port Glovelies/WI.

Christine Porter



Friends of Milborne Port Library

Dates for January 2026

***New* Scrabble Club.** Every Tuesday afternoon 2.30-4pm **starting on the 6th January** – Drop in and play

Lego Club – Saturday 10th January. 9.30 – 12noon. For all ages 5+. Duplo available for under 5's.

Board Games – Saturday 24th January 9.30-12. For all ages

Rhyme Time – Tuesdays, 10.30am. For all little ones aged 0 – 4 years. Join us for singing, stories, rhymes and fun with the musical instruments.

Children's Craft Club – Saturday 17th January 10.30 – 11.30am. Aimed at ages 4+.

Book Club – Tuesday 20th January 2pm. Please do join us as we discuss the most recently read book and distribute the next book. Refreshments provided.

Mary Clothier marydmc38@gmail.com

Milborne Port Gardening Club

January 2026

Happy New Year to all. Hopefully you have been mulling over plans for your garden, be the tasks be small or larger. If you are a new to the village, or considering joining a group this year, meeting likeminded folks, you'd be very welcome to come along and join us as a visitor and hopefully join us.



December saw our members meet for a lovely convivial evening with drinks, snacks and happy banter. We started with a slideshow, which was a brief pictorial review of the past 12 months. This was followed by a team project to produce a center piece for a dining table. It was a fun and inclusive project, producing some wonderful arrangements. The evening was rounded off with a Quiz, once again a team effort.

Thank you to our members and committee for making it a wonderful and happy end to our year of events.



So, to our first gathering for January.
We will be meeting on
**Tuesday, 13th January at 7.30pm
at the Village Hall.**

Jeanette Hampstead of Hedgehog Rescue of Hazelbury Bryan, is our speaker. Jeanette is a retired nurse, who, from rescuing her first hedgehog in her garden, learning along the way and now caring for about 300 hedgehogs a year, along with her band of dedicated volunteers, all to treat and then aid in the recovery and rehabilitation of these creatures, so that they can be released back into suitable environments. Her talk will hopefully enable us all to better accommodate hedgehogs in our own gardens.

Should you wish to know more about the Club, or join us in 2025, please do come to any meeting or contact the Secretary (Samantha at samgraham2009@gmail.com). We happily welcome guests to our meetings for a fee £4.00.

Samantha Dean

Musings by Frank Wright whilst ironing

A few years ago, I was going to do some ironing and looked for something on TV to watch at the same time. I found the 1941 film of *How Green Was My Valley*, a dramatization of a book by Richard Llewellyn published in 1939 about life in a Welsh mining village in the late 19th century. I realised that, when I had first seen the film, probably 50 years earlier, I had not understood what it is about. I was moved to read the book. As is often the case, the film is a rather romanticised version of a harsh piece of writing. The narrator is Huw the youngest of six brothers and a sister, Angharad. All the men work

in the pit and Huw expects to have to do the same. There are accidents in the pit which affect the whole village.

When we lived in Slough in the 90s there were a lot of elderly Welsh people there who had travelled east in the 20s and 30s looking for work. One of the ladies told me of the time there had been an accident in their pit and their house was the only one in the village with only one coffin in the front room.

Back to the book. Change was coming, things were getting tight. The mine owner, who lived grandly in a large house, was trying to reduce the wages and lay people off. There was a strike. Huw's brothers were looking for work. Angharad marries the son of the mine owner. She becomes a 'lady'. They were a chapel family, and the minister had fallen in love with her and she with him, but she chooses the other life. Two of the older brothers decide to leave the village. They go to America. The Baptist minister is desolate and cannot carry on. He goes to Patagonia. Angharad and her husband had left the country, but she comes back without him. The chapel holds a meeting to discuss excommunicating her, assuming divorce. The father and one of the brothers are killed in a pit accident. Huw gains a university scholarship but will not break loyalty and does not go, but there's not much family left to hold together.

It is a fiction. Good, well researched fiction can educate. Other fiction looks at similar matters. Ken Follet in his trilogy, *Winter of the World* begins in the Welsh valleys in the late 19th century and writes of the plight of the poor. Pit widows and families are thrown out of their tied homes. The squire seduces a young girl. The chapel is challenged for its double standards. The Labour movement is born.

What we see is industrial and economic change and the effects of those on the life of a local community. We see the harshness of production and the divisions of class, and - as we say these days - the gap between rich and poor. It teaches us to look at the effects of political and economic decisions. It is undoubtedly a political message.

The message is to stop and think and consider the consequences of opinions and actions and the costs of progress and who bears that cost.

The January Night Sky

“By the darkness, stars are revealed.” – Evette Carter

Start 2026 by catching Jupiter at its brightest and best for the year, take in a Super Full Moon, and view the Quadrantid meteor shower.

January’s Visible Planets

Morning: Jupiter.

Evening: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune.

All Night: Jupiter.

(Not visible this month Mercury, Venus & Mars)

Astronomical Events for January

3rd **Full Moon** known as the ‘Wolf Moon’; the name may originate from the Anglo-Saxon lunar calendar. It is the time of the year when wolves howl. Howling is used as a social rally call, a hail to hunt or as a territorial expression. The January full moon is known as the Quiet Moon or the Cold Moon in other cultures. **Peak of the Quadrantid meteor shower.** The meteors appear to radiate from the constellation Boötes, near the Plough. However, viewing conditions are poor this year because of the Full Moon.

Close approach of the **Moon** and **Jupiter**

5th **Earth at perihelion** the point in Earth’s orbit at which it is closest to the Sun. Perihelion always happens in early January, about two weeks after the December Solstice.

9th **Jupiter at perigee.** The point in Jupiter’s orbit around the Earth when it is closest to our planet.

10th Jupiter at opposition, occurs when the earth is positioned directly between the Sun and Jupiter, causing the two celestial bodies to appear on opposite sides of the sky. Jupiter rises in the east as the Sun sets in the West. **Moon at Last Quarter.**

18th New Moon

19th γ-Ursae Minorid meteor shower. This year observing conditions for the Gamma-Ursae Minorids are ideal, since the peak occurs so close to the New Moon. They are a modest shower, and this year offers one of the best opportunities to see one of its few meteors.

23rd Close approach of the Moon, Saturn and Neptune

26th Moon at First Quarter

31st Close approach of the Moon and Jupiter

Sunrise & Sunset

1st Jan: sunrise 08:14 am Sunset: 4:14 pm Daylength: 8hrs

31st Jan: sunrise 07:49 am Sunset: 4:59 pm Daylength: 9hrs 10 mins

In Milborne Port, the days lengthen by 1 hour 10 minutes during January 2026. Spring is on its way! Happy New Year and good viewing.

Ganymede

FYI: Ganymede is a natural satellite of Jupiter and is the largest and most massive moon in the Solar System.





The Milborne Port Calendars for 2026

*(some may still be available at Wayne the Butchers.
The price is £5.00.)*

The monthly pictures in the calendar are those taken by people around the village and which have appeared on the front cover of the magazine during 2025.

The cover of this year's calendar has an amazing picture of a frog emerging from one of the water tanks up at the allotments after the extremely hot summer of 2025, taken by Terry Mitchell.

If you enjoy taking pictures and come up with a gem – please submit it for consideration for the front cover of the magazine. **Susan Wales** took this month's cover picture of December's full moon shining over the floodlit church.

Please send your high-res images of scenes in and around the village to:
magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk

MAGAZINE DEADLINES

All entries for the February 2026 issue of the magazine to the editor please by **Saturday 24th January** at **12 noon latest.**

Distributors at the church on **Friday 30th January** at **2 p.m.**

Editor's email :

magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk

All email contributions will be acknowledged.





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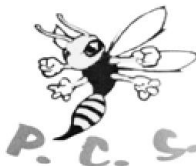
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