



MILLAND VALLEY NEWS

WINTER | DECEMBER 2025 | No 177

Potato in a Pot – The Results **Sue Strike**



38 potatoes were sold for the competition this year and most arrived on the day of the weigh-in at Milland Village Shop. The potatoes were washed and weighed, weights recorded, and the crop put into a basket with name and weight ready for the contestants to collect later in the morning.

This year's variety was King Edward, a main crop potato grown in the UK since 1902, making it one of the oldest cultivars still grown commercially. It is oval-shaped with white skin that has distinctive pinkish-red markings and creamy white flesh. It is popular for roasting, mashing, and general kitchen use. This year's winner is Gwyn Jones who claimed the champion's trophy with a crop weighing 6lb 11½oz (2.764kg). Second was Polly Holt with 4lb 2½oz (1.885kg)

followed by Ethan Hawkins at 2lb 2oz (1.871kg) in third. So close!

Gwyn also produced the largest single potato which weighed 8oz (226g).

With most pots returned, washed and stacked ready for next year, the organisers hope for another bumper entry in 2026. Potato, pot and entry forms will be available from Milland Village Shop in March.



A Note from Your New Parish Clerk

Hello everyone,

I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new parish clerk for Milland. I am very excited to be taking on this role in such a welcoming community, and looking forward to working closely with councillors and residents to make it a continued success.

I have many years' experience in both finance and local government, and following a relocation to Hampshire from Surrey, and a lengthy career break to have my two children, (Rose 8 and Hugo 1), I am ready to return to the world of work and local community. Both the children and my husband are looking forward to joining me at future events in the parish so please come and say hi.

I will work hard to ensure continued support for the parish's ongoing projects and help with new ideas where I can. Whether it's maintaining open green spaces, supporting local events, or simply helping residents with queries, my aim is to ensure the council remains both approachable and efficient while complying with all of its obligations.

There is plenty for me to learn and I will be working closely with Viki over the coming weeks to ensure a smooth and successful handover before we bid her farewell. Sounds like I have a tough act to follow!

One of the biggest attractions to local government for me is seeing how even small actions can make a real difference in the community and to the daily lives of local residents. I'm looking forward to getting to know more of you personally and hearing your thoughts about Milland and its priorities for the future.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns I will always be happy to help. You can reach me on the parish council's usual contact details.

Thank you for the warm welcome so far!

Best regards,

Rebecca Denby

Parish Clerk, Milland Parish Council



Christmas Light Up **Sue Hoar**

Milland's Christmas lighting up will happen on **Saturday 13th December at 6.00pm** - the first time it is to be staged on a Saturday. We hope this change of day will enable more people to come along. So come along to Cartersland green to watch the trees lit up with the usual beautiful white lights and to enjoy the carols, snacks and mulled wine courtesy of The Rising Sun.



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Advertising and flyers

Deadline for submission of advertising copy:

Friday 6th February 2026

Please note, ads are required as print-ready, jpeg images in one of three standard sizes. Help with preparation is available for a nominal charge. Please allow extra time when submitting if this help is needed.

Editorial deadline

Deadline for articles for the next issue:

Friday 6th February 2026

Send copy for ads, articles and photos to Mark Keohane at
(mark@markkeohane.com)

Milland Valley News subscriptions

MVN is available by subscription for those outside the free delivery area. For details, please contact John Collier
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Community contacts (01428 unless otherwise shown) *If you know of any changes to these contacts, please inform the Editor.*

Milland Mem. Hall bookings:	Bookings Clerk,	07500 510709
	Chairman: Andy Haslam,	07887 721346
Borden Village Hall bookings:	Sara	07717 043817
	bordenvillagehall@gmail.com	
Redford Hall bookings:	Marion Hansford	07740 192951
Milland Parish Council:	Clerk: Rebecca Denby,	clerk@milland-wsx-pc.gov.uk
County Councillor:	Dr Kate O'Kelly,	07979 522299
District Councillors:	Brett Burkhart,	07876 594168
	Eleanora Newbery,	656941
Member of Parliament:	Andrew Griffith	
	email: andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk	
Rector for Milland and Linch:	Rev Trish Bancroft,	741285
Milland Stores:	Kriszta Sloan,	741066
Milland Sports Club:	Justin Whitehouse,	07752 658847
Milland Tennis Club:	Penny Small,	741271
Milland Valley Nursery School:	Jo Mealey	07876 260780
Hollycombe Primary School:	Head: Louise Pearce,	741332
Rake CE First School:	Head: David Bertwistle,	01730 892126
Model Railway Club:	David Pike,	07880 518628
Village Boules Club:	Colin Stopher,	741231
Wildflower Group:	Sue Strike,	01730 821783
Police:	Non-emergency: 101	(emergency 999)
Liphook Herald:	Gabrielle Pike,	01252 899296

Regulars at Milland Valley Memorial Hall

See also www.millandvillagehall.co.uk

(Please let the Editor know if your group makes any changes)

Milland Valley Nursery School: Monday –Thursday, 9am–3pm
Jo Mealey, 07876 260780
Yoga: Monday, 6.00 – 7.30pm Angela Thompson, 07961 127061
Yoga: Tuesday, 7.00 – 8.30pm Lorraine Grocott, 01428 741393
Pilates: Wednesday, 6.15–7.15pm Zannah Charman-Lambert, 07710 328844
Tap Class Thursday 6.00-8pm Gina Van Dyke
Pre-School Music Class 9:15am-11:15 am
Shirley Stump 07970 202473
Model Railway Club: Friday, 7.30–10.30pm, Committee Room
David Pike, 07880 518628
Ballet: Saturday mornings 9am-1.30pm Kirsty Pritchard
theballetacademy@gmail.com
Village Boules at Sports Club Wednesday mornings,
10.15am-12.30pm Colin Stopher, 741231

Community websites

Milland parish website:	www.milland-wsx-pc.gov.uk
Milland parish Facebook:	www.facebook.com/millandcommunity
Churches website:	www.beneficeoflinchmillandstedham.co.uk
Milland Memorial Hall:	www.millandvillagehall.co.uk
Milland Stores :	www.millandstores.co.uk
Milland Evangelical Church:	www.millandevangelical.org.uk
Milland Volunteers:	www.millandvolunteers.co.uk

The end of another year and Christmas looms large. Larger than ever it seems; the Christmas ads intended to part us from our hard-earned began before the cackling of Halloween had faded.

I'm struck by the volume of content this time around. Contributors have gone about their task with gusto. I don't know how much we'll be able to get in it (hopefully none will go to waste) but I'm exploring the use of AI, which, I've found, can do an excellent job of bringing the word count down so that we can indeed squeeze everybody in. It can do in seconds what would me much longer; without losing the essential interest and content of the piece. I often look at text that's been AI'd and think it's edited it like I would have. Rest assured I will use sparingly and carefully vet.

We've a real mix for this issue. I was moved by the efforts of young Aurelia Carter, whose fund-raising drive for Hollycombe school featured earlier this year. There's an update inside but I tip my hat to her. When I was nine I'd just about mastered my shoelaces. Aurelia has raised thousands of pounds. Great work, young lady. You'll go far.

The annual fireworks and bonfire extravaganza went splendidly, though with a slightly disappointing turnout. Nonetheless, I'm sure the event will have added to the funds for disbursement to local causes. Credit goes to the organising committee, but if you read my little editorials regularly you'll know that I always bang on about the importance of volunteering; in this case not just the organising but with the setup, running and tear-down. I have penned a Shout Out inside.

We welcome Rebecca Denby as our new parish council clerk, stepping into the massive shoes (sorry Rebecca; no pressure) of Viki Williams. Contributions from them both inside.

The last time I wrote I mentioned Jeremy Parker's interesting piece about the water flowing down (well, it don't normally flow up...) Milland Lane. Four alert readers pointed out gently that said item was absent. Rectified inside. Nice to know that at least four people pass their eyes over my words.

While assisting with the bonfire clean up, I took a good look at the front of the shop. It's certainly taken a beating this year. I was pleased to hear that no-one was hurt in the latest incident, caused, I understand, by accidental mixing up of a parked car's stop and go pedals. But I've also had sight of a letter from the shop, which says this: For 14 years, our shop has been a vital part of village life—providing essentials, last-minute items, and a welcoming spot to meet friends. However, rising costs, fewer volunteers, and increased expenses are making it harder to maintain our services. With your support, we can overcome these challenges. *If every household spent just £10 a week at the shop, or stopped by for a coffee or tea, it would make a significant difference.* [Ed's emphasis]. We ensure our prices are competitive and every pound spent here supports local jobs and suppliers, and keeps our shop at the heart of the community.

We've a report on the Milland History Exhibition, including its origins and an appeal for help in finding a suitable home for the many historical documents that have been gathered by the Milland Memories Group; somewhere where they can be kept securely for anyone wishing to know more about the fascinating history of the village and surrounds.

Finally, please take note of the date for switching on the lights on the green, which will be better than ever this year. Thanks to Sue Hoar for leading the charge and the little band of volunteers, your editor among them, who, literally, keep the lights on.

It remains only to wish you a happy Christmas. Enjoy, be safe and see you in 2026.

A Fresh Look for Our Village Telephone Box

Claire Collins

The village telephone box has recently undergone refurbishment and received a fresh coat of paint, it's now looking as good as new. A big thank you goes to local business Harry at Price's Decorating & Property Maintenance for doing such a brilliant job.

The defibrillator housed inside has also had a new battery fitted, as the previous one was over six years old (they last around seven years).

The defibrillator is checked regularly to ensure it's in full working order. If you ever need to use it, the ambulance service will usually take care of any follow-up. However, please also let me or a member of the Parish Council know so we can ensure it's ready for future use.

Maintenance and replacement costs continue to be covered by the Parish Council, using funds originally raised by the local community.

Right now, the box is dressed in poppies to commemorate Remembrance Day.

In an emergency – how to use the defibrillator

1. Call 999 immediately. Tell the operator someone is in cardiac arrest —
2. they'll stay on the line and guide you through what to do.
3. Start CPR straight away. Push hard and fast in the centre of the chest — around 100–120 times per minute (to the beat of Stayin' Alive works well!).
4. If someone else is with you, send them to get the defibrillator from the telephone box. No access code is needed — simply open the alarmed cabinet and take it out.
5. Switch on the defibrillator and follow the voice instructions. It will tell you exactly what to do and when to deliver a shock, if needed.

The defibrillator is safe and designed for anyone to use — no training required. Acting quickly with CPR and the defibrillator can save a life.

Claire, 2 Drakeleys Field



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Clippings from the clerk's cabinet

Viki Williams

- I am still here but also very pleased to announce that after a very thorough recruitment process, your councillors have chosen my fabulous replacement! I am therefore going to keep this as a 'clippings light' and let the wonderful Rebecca introduce herself!
- The draft minutes of the November full council meeting have been placed on the notice board in the village hall car park and on the website.
- Thank you for all the continued feedback regarding speed reduction throughout the parish. As part of this initiative, I am pleased to confirm that the 20mph speed limit has now been implemented for Borden Wood. The council is continuing to work with residents to address the issues with Milland and Wardley Lanes. (Thank you to the residents of the latter for the TRO application that they have submitted). All of these applications require community involvement and support so please do get in touch if you are interested.
- The last Milland Meet Up took place on Wednesday 15th October 10am-11.30am at the Milland Stores coffee shop and included a visit from the Hollycombe Estate project team. The next meeting is to be held on 10th December. **Please do come along for a free coffee and a chat if you can. We would love to see you.**
- My annual thank you to the Bonfire Committee for again putting on such a show – I think it was my favourite display to date! Despite some inclement weather, there was a great turnout and as always a wonderful atmosphere! I cannot begin to do justice to the amount of hard work that goes into the setting up and closing down of this splendid event and yet everyone involved is always smiling. It was a pleasure to once again be involved with serving the hog roast on the night and the Sunday morning clean up. Big thanks John and team for another spectacular show.
- Please refer to the website www.milland-wsx-pc.gov.uk for council and local information. Next full council meeting to be held Wednesday 14th January 2026 at Milland Memorial Hall at 6pm.
- Now I happily handover to Rebecca...

Little Star Sally Carter

You may recall our daughter Aurelia's appeal earlier this year for used computer equipment and donations to enable the purchase of two new computers for Hollycombe School.

I thought I'd update you on Aurelia's fundraising efforts!

She raised a fantastic £2,500 which Hollycombe school have recently put towards the lease of new computers for the next 3 years. Aurelia was blown away with everyone's generosity and she enjoyed baking and delivering 'thank you' treats to all who donated.

The school also received a donation of a laptop and screen from the computing company inTEC after the group director read the open letter in MVN.

Thank you so much for your support! Aurelia says "A HUGE thank you to all the generous donations from the kind Milland locals, businesses owners and Hollycombe school parents."



Shout out Mark Keohane



The fireworks and bonfire extravaganza took place as usual this year on the rec and, despite the disappointing turnout will surely have raised some funds for local causes.

I wanted to prompt a rousing round of applause for all of those concerned. Especially, of course, the organising committee, but also the many volunteers who showed up to put it all up Saturday, make sure the event went off without any life-threatening hitches on the night and pulled it down again and put it away for another year on Sunday morning. Distressingly, there were so many volunteers on the Sunday that the ground was cleared before the Riser opened its doors, saving John Collier the cost of a round of beers, which I'm sure he'll leave instead in the fund. Bravissimi! As they might say in Italy.

Milland Valley Memorial Hall 200 Club John Collier

The latest 200 club winners were:

September

- 1st prize Elizabeth Robinson
- 2nd prize Nick Doyle
- 3rd prize Georgie Cooke-Priest

October

- 1st prize Henry Pollard
- 2nd prize Ben Burston
- 3rd prize Rosemary Ablitt

November

- 1st prize Robert Gratton
- 2nd prize Mary Turton
- 3rd prize Steve Bancroft



It only costs £5 a month to join the 200 club. Over £250 of prize money is paid out every month and more members would mean even bigger prizes and more money being raised for the village hall. For more details or to download an application form, please visit our web site www.millandvillagehall.co.uk. Alternatively you should contact John Collier on 01428 741 225 or jdcollier1955@gmail.com

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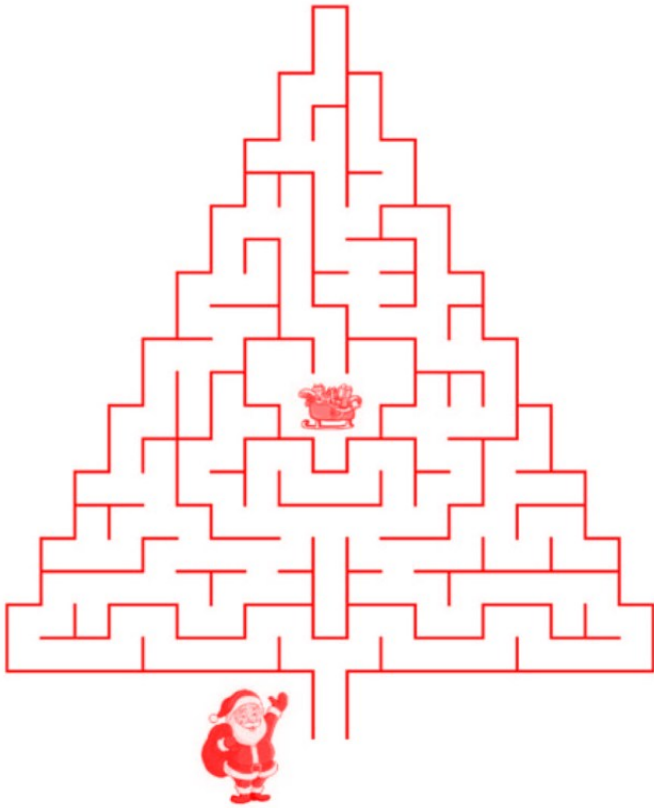
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Thursday - Online
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D	P	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	E	V	E	U

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY. Find and circle each word.



Hollycombe Primary School John Reilly

It was Sammy Davis Jnr who sang that the 'rhythm of life is a powerful beat' and the same could be said of school life. There is a most definite rhythm to the school year, with the excitement and giddiness of a new school year being replaced by a more purposeful and focused group of learners.

With the festive season on the horizon, the rhythm of our school changes again, as rehearsals for concerts and nativities, preparation for fetes and parties, all add to the magic of working at the school.

It has certainly been a very rewarding start to the year. Our newest pupils in Reception Class, performed a variety of songs at their recent Harvest Festival. Four of our pupils have been selected to attend elite development squads for Hampshire County Cricket Club, more pupils than ever are engaged in after-school activities and it appears that new school craze is taking part in running activities at weekends, something I suggest is far healthier than sitting playing on a games console all day!

Add to this, a selection of visitors, chocolate making, after-school clubs, Forest School and even an Ancient Egyptian embalming and mummification ceremony, we have certainly been busy over the last few weeks.

Music continues to go from strength to strength at the school, mainly thanks to the endeavours of our music champion, Karen van Lokven.

Karen ensures that the music offer for Hollycombe pupils is outstanding, not only in terms of whole class provision of music lessons but also in ensuring individual music tutors are able to work with individual pupils during the school week. Look out for Karen and her young singing group performing in the village in the run up to Christmas!

The installation of new lighting, ceilings and electrical wiring throughout the school has been welcomed by all. Similarly, a revamp of our computer equipment during the summer has ensured that our pupils can continue to access their learning on a variety of different educational platforms. On this note, we must extend our sincere thanks to Milland Valley News, for thanks to this publication, we were delighted to receive two amazing donations of support, enabling us to increase our IT offer to the pupils yet further.

We continue to look for ways that we can develop our pupils 'cultural capital' and are always keen to engage them in activities close to home. We are looking forward to taking the whole school to two forthcoming Christmas performances at Chichester Festival Theatre and, in response to the current running craze, we are also launching our own Primary School 'Parkrunners' group who will meet regularly to take part in local 'Junior Parkruns'.



Milland Nursery School

Jo Mealey

This half term the children at nursery have been having a wonderful time exploring the village. They especially love visiting the nearby horses, who have quickly become firm favourites among the children. We have spent lots of time on the field, looking for all the signs of autumn and collecting leaves to bring back to nursery to investigate and create with. These outings not only give the children a chance to enjoy the fresh air and beautiful countryside but also help them learn about nature and the animals in their community. If you ever see us out and about, please do give us a wave. We have also celebrated Diwali, the festival of lights! The children learned about the meaning of the celebration and took part in fun activities, including decorating our own hand prints with Mendi designs, creating our own rangoli patterns and enjoying food-tasting at snack times. They sampled a few different snacks including rice, poppadum and Nann breads, discovering new flavours and learning about different cultures in the process. It was a lovely experience for the children.



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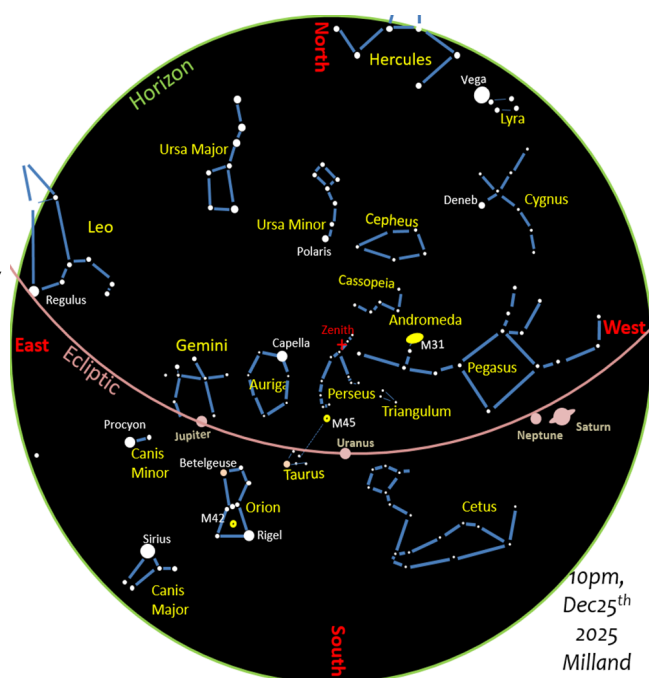
Milland Stargazing *Stargazer CNight Sky Winter 2025 (see star chart)*

A decent show of planets will be visible in the evening sky through December, with very bright Jupiter (see photo)

Night Sky Winter 2025 (see star chart)

- A decent show of planets will be visible in the evening sky through December, with very bright Jupiter (see photo) following dimmer yellowish Saturn in the evening. Uranus is nicely placed for those with a decent telescope and lots of patience. Dimmer Neptune is theoretically possible through a telescope.
- Constellation Orion is easy to spot, and neighbouring arrow-head shape Taurus. The square of Pegasus is visible on a decent night. These three constellations help us find interesting deep sky objects
- Deep sky objects M45 (Pleiades) Open Cluster can be seen with the unaided eye. M42 nebula in Orion is visible with binoculars as is M31 the Andromeda galaxy
- Dec13,14 Geminids Meteor Shower— produced when an asteroid (3200 Phaethon) was hit by something. Should be a decent show, the moon shouldn't be too bright.
- December 21, 22 - Ursids Meteor Shower produced by dust grains left behind by comet Tuttle, first discovered 1790. A fingernail moon sets early in the evening, so we can hope for a decent display.

(info from SeaSky.org)



Above: The Night Sky as seen on 25th December 2025, 10pm, looking upwards

The Pleiades (Seven Sisters)

You may be aware of a tiny cluster of stars which are, seasonally, starting to become apparent to the naked eye on clear nights in the evenings. I'm talking about the cluster called the Pleiades, otherwise known as the Seven Sisters or M45. You can find them in the South Eastern evening sky by finding Orion's belt as a pointer (presently low down) and tracing upwards from it to a small constellation called Taurus, an arrowhead shape, and a little bit further to Pleiades. (see star map). It is known as an Open Cluster of stars, or an asterism (a pattern too small to be a constellation).

The Pleiades may be known as the Seven Sisters, but how many stars can you see in the photographs? Or even better, try and count them next time a clear night allows you to go star gazing. (It would be nice, parents, if you notice a clear night, to give your security lights a night off so that our nature enthusiasts have a chance to ponder the night sky glory without all this light pollution in Milland!) Galileo, with his telescope, reckoned there were 36 stars, in 1782 Jeurat drew 64 on his map, now there are over 1000 registered stars.

The photograph shows that the bright, dominant stars are blue. Therefore, they are known to be hot young stars which are fairly short lived. The cluster came about during the time of the later dinosaurs, and the stars will last another 250 million years; a very short period compared to the life of our sun (for another 5 billion years). You will notice a blue glow (nebulousity) around the stars; dust which is illuminated by these blue stars. There are other types as well, and many invisible brown dwarfs, or failed stars, too small for gravity to compress and therefore heat to go nuclear.

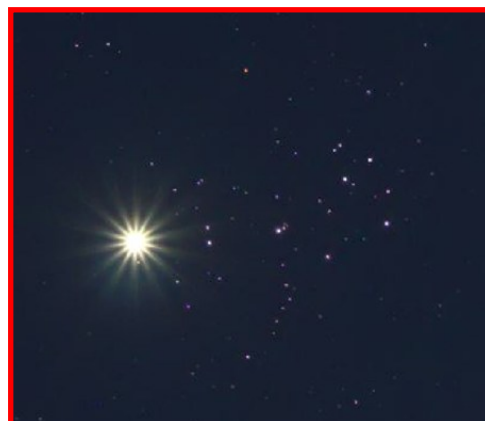
The stars are on the move. Diagrams from thousands of years ago show different arrangements. There are also cave drawings where one of the stars is absent; maybe a slow starter. It's likely that in a few thousand years it will look different still.

The Pleiades is on the ecliptic; an imaginary arc on (or near) the path taken by the sun, moon and planets (also on which the zodiac constellations reside). It is therefore common for planets to cross its path, as is the case in the photograph. The proximity to the ecliptic made the Pleiades important through history as a positional and seasonal marker and was used to determine the spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere, and the autumn equinox in the South.

Oh, btw, pop into the Rising Sun to see my photograph of the Orion Nebula!



Pleiades through my telescope, combination of lots of images also reveals the blue dust which glows round them.



Pleiades using just my telephoto camera lens. Here, Venus is in close proximity.

NEW SPEED LIMITS AROUND THE PARISH Jeremy Parker

In the last MVN, the editor mentioned talk of changes to local speed limits – a frequent agenda item for Parish Council meetings. The most obvious is the reduction to 40mph on the B2070 from the end of the dual carriageway to the golf club turn-off, where it joins up with the existing 40mph limit. You may have noticed the new 20mph limit through Borden Wood, where the road has become quite a race track, not least for cyclists – to whom the new speed limit also applies! Elsewhere too, judging by the broken wing mirrors and bits of car bumper collected during the annual spring litter-pick, there are lots of minor collisions and near-misses. Government statistics show that 75% of fatal accidents and nearly 60% of serious injuries occur on rural roads, which carry much less traffic than urban roads....

There are more speed limit proposals afoot, as a change in the law by the last government made Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) easier to obtain - for permanent speed, access and weight restrictions, as well as one-off road closures for events such as street parties. TROs can be initiated by anyone, but must be supported by most residents and meet the relevant Highways regulations.

Residents of Milland Lane hope to reduce the speed limit on the whole lane. Traffic speed has increased significantly in the last five years, as the road has been effectively widened by large vehicles which just drive over the verges. In places, they have all but disappeared, which makes for unwanted excitement for walkers using the 13 public rights of way leading off the Lane! There is hope too that there may be a weight limit to protect the forthcoming major works to solve the problem of the spring in the middle of the road by Church Lane.

Wardley Lane is well used by children walking to school from the village and connects four popular footpaths. Verges are either non-existent or too high to be stepped onto in a hurry, as some drivers treat even the existing 60 mph limit with scorn. Residents believe that it should be a 30mph zone, just like the Fernhurst Road.

Then there is the centre of the village. Should there be a 20mph limit on all four roads and how far should it extend in each direction? WSCC Highways has not shown much enthusiasm to date, but are there other solutions that might encourage drivers to slow down? More – or no – white lines perhaps? Not more signage though and NO street lights.... please! If you have a novel, but preferably legal and humane, idea as how to slow down traffic in and around the village, why not share it in the MVN?

This and that

David Risley

Today I went under the partly-repaired bridge at Hollycombe for the first time and I could see how great it will be. I was amazed at the huge extent of buildings, car parks, scaffolding and builders everywhere. Wow! It certainly is a big project. I was pleased to read on the internet that a lot of the work is refurbishment, hopefully to keep the character of the house. Which is exciting. There is a lot of information on the net.

My ongoing gripe though is the water companies. Pollution in any form is a disgrace so why do these large companies just seem to get away with it? Of course I don't know all the detail but surely in 2025 we should expect something better. I just heard that a woman was fined £150 for disposing of her coffee down a drain!

It's always delightful when I see a group of volunteers today (22 October) tidying up the green. All power to them and a special THANKYOU. The same goes to the litter pickers. Not

glamorous but makes such a difference to our surroundings. What an autumn? Acorns the size of my thumb. And getting one fall on me was quite a shock! Nature has a way of survival and after that dry summer fruiting is the response. Aren't we so lucky to live in such beautiful surroundings? I never take anything for granted and thank my lucky stars that I live in Milland and witness the autumn be another feast for the eyes. Occasionally we have a light lunch at the shop which is always delicious. You might give it try. To see the damage at the front of the building was quite a shock. I don't know all the details but I just hope that the incident didn't injure anybody. [No. Ed.] Major work is definitely needed.

My bird feeder is alive with visitors even at this time of year. There is always enough fat balls for a couple of dozen birds but nevertheless less two will squabble over the same bit. A bit like humankind. Surplus food for some, starvation for others. My thinking brings me to conclude it's not people, it's politics. Whether domestic or maybe international. I can't comment on the Middle East but I am amazed at the inhumanity of man. Food in abundance but locked away while others are starving. What a crazy world.

One advantage of officially getting old is that I can view the world through my end of a telescope. Ok, maybe I am biased and probably live in my protected existence, but thankfully can say what I think. I try not to offend but now days it's almost impossible to think of the right words. During my life I probably been called every name in the book, and some that are not, particularly in the forces. Was I offended, ...of course not. The installation in Portsmouth depicting lives lost on D-Day brings our freedoms into sharp focus as my dad once said "think on"

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Backpedalling Josie Dew

I finally finished walking and camping the Serpent Trail in October half term with Jack. Although it's actually quite a short-distance for a long-distance trail (65 miles – 106km snaking its way through parts of Surrey and Sussex and Hampshire) we have definitely made a meal of it and done a fine job at spinning it out walking over 100 miles with added detours to look at this and that or to walk back home again when we've run out of time and school has summoned.

When we started it two years ago granny waved us off at the start. The second time we launched ourselves onto the route, granny sent us a text hoping we would be careful as we camped in a graveyard on top of a hill in Linchmere in a detonating storm with sky-tearing lightning and thunder crashing around our tent. The third time we did a section of the walk we veered off course to visit granny for tea and biscuits and to fill up our water bottles. The fourth time she sent me a text to say she was very confused where I was or what I was doing (she had been diagnosed with dementia). And when we left this time, she was pushing up the daisies in Iping Marsh churchyard.

So over a few days in half term, we walked from Fittleworth to Petersfield. The trouble with having let nearly two years lapse since we were last camping on the Serpent Trail is that Jack has grown about a foot-and-a-half and our mini tent hasn't. The tent is snug enough for one person but skintight for two. When I wanted to enter the tent with Jack already ensconced within, I had to reverse in on my hands and knees and park myself beside him lying prostrate. As a result, whenever we needed to move, we spent the whole time entangling ourselves unintentionally in each other's limbs which caused much raucous merriment and silly amusement. Because Jack liked to try and sneakily spread himself onto my side of the tent, I felt I had no other option than to take the bull by the horns and mark an imaginary halfway point line down the length of the tent over which he was not permitted to pass.

The first night Jack took no time after falling asleep to break all rules and merge onto my narrow strip of sleeping mat leaving me confined to the very edge. In the morning, I woke up with one of his arms and two of his legs on top of me pinning me down with my face pressed tight against the flimsy rip-stop nylon of the inner tent just as a frankfurter-sized slug slime-trailed slowly over my forehead on the other side of the wafer-thin material. Most people would have moved away fast from such an unappetising early-morning slug encounter, flinging aside the various dead-leg limbs of the body-sprawled sleeper beside them, but as us mothers tend to be good at sacrificing our comfort and pain for the pleasure of others I grinned and bore the slug so as not to disturb Jack's even-breathing beauty sleep.

And so the nights passed. As did the days in a walk of beautiful heathland paths, lofty pine trees, ancient woodland, abundant and wonderful wildlife from smooth snakes and sand lizards to silver-studded blue butterflies and Dartford warblers all drenched in either sunshine or more than our fair share of biblical rain.



Our rivers and lakes

Lorraine Grocott

I'm culling this from the latest issue of South Down News but I thought it may be of interest to our readers. We do take our rivers, streams and ponds for granted!

South Downs National Park is asking us to "Work together to help improve our rivers and lakes".

They are making a renewed call to improve the health of the rivers, streams and lakes after a new study has revealed the state of waterways across the South Downs region.

The key finding is that most bodies of water are failing to meet good ecological standards, with an overall decline from 2014 to 2022. The study covers six river catchment partnerships across a vast swathe of Sussex, Hampshire and Surrey, revealing that 90 percent of rivers and lakes are not achieving good status (under the Water Framework Directive).

Meanwhile, 75 percent of estuaries and coastal waters are not meeting good ecological status – which is a benchmark for a healthy ecosystem that can support a balanced range of plants and animals. Some 55 percent of groundwaters are also not achieving good status.

The reasons are many and complex, mirroring a national picture, including sewage discharges, nitrates and phosphates, pesticides, physical barriers on watercourses, invasive species and pollution from roads.

The National Park Authority is now calling on partners, landowners, businesses, local councils and communities to come together to find long-term solutions that will help improve water quality and management, kickstarting nature recovery and bringing benefits to all.

The call to action comes as the National Park Authority is finalising its Partnership Management Plan (PMP) – which lays out priorities for the National Park for the next five years – and further strengthening its commitment to water.

The Partnership Management Plan, which is set to include a priority around water, is due to be published and adopted by the National Park Authority as part of its five-year strategy before the end of 2025.

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CHURCHES

From St Lukes Milland: *The Church in the Woods* Bob Ireland

At the end of October it was a joy and pleasure to have a combined PCCs meeting at Redford Village Hall. This allowed all the members of the church councils of the benefice and four churches to come together initially for an informal picnic lunch, to chat and renew acquaintances, and then discuss the issues that are common to all of the parishes, before breaking out into separate PCCs to discuss the parish specific issues.

This allowed to Revd. Trish to outline the Extended Ministerial Development Leave (EMD), or sabbatical that she will be taking for three months over January, February and March. This will include a month in Uganda with Revd. Victoria Ashdown, working with women and families there, also a period of retreat and learning.

Revd. Trish provided the details of coverage that she has arranged for services, pastoral care, funerals and baptisms, plus a list of the summer weddings currently booked. Those who attend the Wednesday morning eucharists were encouraged to join the service at Fernhurst. The benefice services and other activities will be managed by our usual team of Revd. Victoria, Revd. Andrew, Chris Grocock and also Revd. Linda Robertson, who was at Cocking and now lives in Liss, grateful thanks were extended to them all for their ongoing support to the benefice.

At the separate meeting of the St Lukes Milland Church Council the critical finances of the church were reviewed with concern, and the importance of stewardship and money-raising campaigns to increase regular giving in the coming year was emphasised, as the church is suffering deficits in regular giving and collections, compared to the ever-increasing costs of providing for services, weddings, baptisms and funerals, etc. and the maintenance of our beautiful building. By the end of 2026 it is likely that we shall only have funds to cover one year's forecast expenditure.

We hope to organise another Church open day at the church with teas and a plant sale plus a handbell demonstration on 30th May next year and a Pimm's and Hymns event in the autumn full details in the next magazine.

But any one with ideas for fund-raising for your church in Milland would be gratefully received.

In addition, we need to start thinking about the 150th anniversary of the construction of St Lukes Milland in 1878.

In the meantime, work continues on the maintenance of church and churchyard, with the removal of dangerous trees near the Tuxlith Chapel, repairs to gates and fences Plus the acquisition of an appropriate new Coronation bench, also dedicated to the memory of Trevor Turton.

Plus, of course our remembrance service and wreath laying at the Rake War memorial, and preparations for the Christmas services, including Nativity services for both the local schools, carol services and Christmas celebrations:

These include:

Our Service of carols and lessons on 14th Dec at 11.00am

Carol singing in the Rising Sun on Saturday 21st Dec

Midnight mass on Christmas Eve at Linch Church

Christmas morning family communion at 11.00am

Come and join us at one or more of our services.

robireland52@aol.com

The George Street Trust Bob Ireland

George Street was one of the driving forces behind the building of St Lukes Milland & Rake and the Rake Village Church of England School at the end of the 19th century. Another of his lasting legacies is the George Street Trust, which has a sum of capital under investment, the income from which was originally made available to the trustees so that they could provide assistance to those in need, who lived in either the hamlet of Rake or the ecclesiastical parish of St Lukes Milland and Rake, and to further the religious work of the Church of England in the parish.

In 2007 the area of benefit was expanded to encompass the civil parishes of Liss, Milland and Rogate and the full benefice of Milland & Rake and Linch with Iping Marsh. The income may be used for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the area of benefit should there be income left after the application of the original purpose.

The chairman of trustees is the rector of St Lukes Milland, and the churchwardens of St Lukes Milland are ex-officio Trustees, the other trustees are representatives of the civil parishes of Rogate and Liss, plus two co-opted Trustees.

The grants given out are balanced between the twin purposes of "the religious life" of the area and "need, hardship and distress" or "the benefit of the inhabitants of the area".

In the last year this has included grants to people in various forms of "need and hardship", also to support the youth of the area, both individuals and clubs.

Grants were also made to the two churches to assist with the considerable costs of churchyard upkeep and the churches' work in the community.

The local schools also have benefited from grants towards capital projects and fixtures and fittings.

Some of the grants are regular (annual) gifts, others are ad hoc and based on new requests or identified need.

The Trustees continue to consult local contacts to identify potential recipients in the case of need and all donations made are covered by complete and appropriate confidentiality.

Anyone who would like to know more about the George Street Trust or has an application that meets the guiding principles of the Trust, please contact the Revd. Trish Bancroft, Anne Alderman, the trust secretary, or Bob Ireland (co-opted trustee).

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REMEMBRANCE IN MILLAND **Jeremy Parker**

Remembrance in the Milland Valley is focused on St Luke's Linch, the war memorial at the junction with the Fernhurst Rd and the memorial at Iping Marsh Cemetery. The service, led by Chris Grocock, was well attended and Chris gave a very thought-provoking sermon, based on the "swords into ploughshares, spears into pruning hooks" reading from the Old Testament. Many in the congregation then walked up the road to the Linch war memorial, where, after an introductory prayer, Wing Commander Nell Docherty RAF laid a wreath and crosses were placed, each bearing the name of one of the 11 men named on the memorial. An identical act of remembrance was then held at Iping Marsh cemetery, where the memorial marks the site of the altar of the Church of the Good Shepherd, which was demolished in the 1970s. Here, the 18 crosses highlight the truly global nature of both World Wars and the impact on the rural economy and wider society of the loss of such a significant part of the workforce. Many worked on the land for the local estates – whose families were also devastated.

Short biographies of some of the men whose names appear on the Linch memorial were provided in last year's report; this year, we turn to Iping Marsh. The biographies below are summaries of remarkable and extensive work undertaken by Leslie Lloyd nearly 30 years ago, without the benefit of the Internet.

Charles Bulpitt features for some reason on both memorials. He was born in Durley Parish and moved with his family to Wardley Green, where he worked as an under cowman. He enlisted in the Royal Hampshire Regt (RHR), serving in the 14th Service Battalion ("Pompey's Own"). He was killed, with at least two other local men, in September 1916 in an ultimately futile attack near Beaumont Hamel, the Battalion's first battle, two months into the Somme Offensive of that year.

Percy Albery was born in Terwick, joined the RHR and sailed for India, where he died, presumably of disease, in Secunderabad, where he is buried. **Harry Boniface** grew up near Durrants Pond; a bricklayer and married man, he also joined the RHR and died of wounds in Mesopotamia – modern-day Iraq. He is buried in Baghdad. **Sidney Brown** was drowned, along with 860 others, when his troopship was torpedoed in the Mediterranean, en route to Gallipoli. **George Cook** was probably a sergeant in the Hussars; born in Borden Wood and a married man, he died of wounds in Mesopotamia and is buried in Basra.

Montague Glue lived at Myers, went to Hollycombe School and became a gardener. He was gassed in France, but survived the War, only to die of gangrene from an infected cut in 1919 – a direct result of being gassed. He is buried just a few yards from the memorial in the cemetery, surrounded by the graves of his relatives. **George Hamilton's family** owned the Iping Estate; he was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards and was killed in France during a German bomber raid in May 1918. **William Hickman** attended Hollycombe School and lived up Lambourne Lane. He was conscripted into the Army late in the War and was probably killed in France just a month before the Armistice. His younger brother, **Frederick**, was killed in WW2.

Arthur King was a Regular soldier whose father owned the Chithurst Estate. He was coming to the end of his career at the outbreak of the War. He was a major, second in command of his battalion when he was killed in action near Ypres in 1915, aged 46. **William Lamb** was born in Romsey and came to Milland with his family as a child. He married into the Booker family, who farmed at Weston's Farm and had four children, all educated at Hollycombe School. Wounded early in the War, he returned to France with the RHR and was killed in August 1918 – leaving his widow pregnant with their fourth child. **Jim Newman** was also an incomer, moving with his family to Weston's Farm, where his father introduced Friesian cattle to this part of Sussex. He attended Hollycombe School and left, aged 14, to become a gardener; called up in 1917, he died from sepsis as a result of an infected inoculation given to him during training on Salisbury Plain.

Arthur Parrott was probably born at Knapp, Iping Marsh, where his father was a farm labourer. He attended Hollycombe School. While there, the family moved to a house on Milland Lane. Sadly, no record of his service or death has been found, but a nephew recalled that he had been killed in action on the Somme. **Walter Woods** was the son of a farm labourer at Great Kingsham and then at Chithurst. A married man with at least four children, he was serving in the Middlesex Regiment in Flanders during the pursuit of the retreating German Army, but was wounded and subsequently died of his injuries in October 1917, aged 41. He is buried in Belgium. Sadly, very little is known about Francis Duley, Eli Enticknap (whose family lived at Chorley Common) and Walter Feltham, all of whom have no known grave and no certain record of their service.

There are two names on the memorial from WW2; **William Grant's** family came from Portsmouth and lived in a bungalow next to Park Farm; his father ran the bakery at Heath's shop in Milland between the Wars. William was born in Portsmouth and joined the Royal Navy before the War; in 1942, he was serving in a depot ship, HMS HECLA, which was damaged by a mine in the South Atlantic. While under tow to Simonstown in S Africa for repairs, she was torpedoed by a U-boat and sank with the loss of 281 lives, including William. **Frederick Hickman**, younger brother of William, was born in 1917; his father was foreman at the Iping paper Mill and they lived at Iping Mill Cottage. After school, Frederick became a gamekeeper in Iping. Called up at the start of WW2, he served as a Private with the Royal Sussex Regt and deployed to France with the British Expeditionary Force. At some point during the retreat to the beaches of Dunkirk, poor Frederick fell under the tracks of one of our own tanks and was crushed to death.

If you live in a house once occupied by one of these men, or you live near-by, do consider doing your own research to find out more about them – and write to the MVN with your results.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.



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Milland Chapel **Paul Strike**

Roger Chatterton-Newman was right to correct my statement in the last issue of MVN that Milland chapel was never dedicated to St. Luke. It was a private chapel, never under the control of the Anglican church.

I assumed that a St. Luke's chapel found on an early Sussex map had to be Milland chapel. However, I now realise it was a little Anglican chapel, later to become the new parish church of Linch.

In 1705 Bishop Williams came from Chichester to Linch to consecrate this new chapel. He gifted a silver bowl, and had it inscribed 'To the little chapel of Linch', which is still in the possession of the present church.

More observations on Tuxlith chapel **Roger Chatterton-Newman**

While I respect Paul Strike's devotion to Linch Church, I would be interested to know what evidence he has for the contents of his article in the autumn issue of the MVN. The galleries and box pews were installed in Tuxlith Chapel in 1835, when a major overhaul took place there, including the building of the north transept and a relaying of the floor. The brasses certainly did not come from Linch - they commemorated members of the Steward (originally Styward) family, who bought Milland Place in 1638. Only one now remains: that of Brigid Brograve (died 1677), wife of Humphrey Steward. Their grandson, Thomas, assumed the spelling of Stuart for his surname, as an attempt to distance himself from kinship with Oliver Cromwell, whose mother was a Steward. Their cousins at Hartley Mauditt, near Selborne, who had received a baronetcy in 1660, did exactly the same. It was Thomas Stuart who, in the early 18th century, transcribed the Tuxlith registers, including the baptisms of several of his children; a transcription published by the Friends of Tuxlith Chapel in recent years as *The Tuxlith Folk-Book* (Tuxlith Tract No 3). The registers have nothing whatsoever to do with those of Linch.

As for the Saxon font, it was found buried in the graveyard when the new St Luke's, Milland, was built in 1878-80, and had doubtless come from Tuxlith Chapel. As I see it, the one and only connection between Linch Church and Tuxlith Chapel was the dedication of both to St Luke!

Tis the Season at Milland Stores

With Christmas fast approaching, our shelves are now filled with a wide selection of carefully chosen seasonal treats and gifts — there's something for everyone!

The seasonal favourites like gingerbread latte, hot chocolate orange and mince pies are available again in our café so come and enjoy a festive treat.

As with every year, we're here to help make your Christmas preparations a little easier. You can order all your Christmas essentials through us. Our turkeys are supplied by Michael Courtney in Midhurst, and there's no extra charge when ordering through Milland Stores.

We can also provide organic meat from Goodwood, fresh fish, and a wonderful selection of local cheeses, to name just a few.

To reduce waste and avoid disappointment, we highly recommend pre-ordering bread and dairy products in the run up to Christmas.

Give us a call or send an email — we'll be happy to help with your festive orders!

Wreath Making Course

Create your own beautiful Christmas wreath under the expert guidance of Phoebe from Hummingbird Floral Design. Following last year's success, we're delighted to offer two dates this year — **5th and 6th December**.

The course costs £68.50, which includes all materials, a glass of bubbly, some festive nibbles, and a jolly good time!

For more information or to book your place, please call the shop.

Christmas Tree Sales and Christmas Market

Once again, we'll be selling beautiful Nordmann Fir Christmas trees and wreaths in Milland on **Saturday, 6th December**, from 10am to 2pm.

These trees are known for their excellent needle retention and will stay fresh indoors for 4–5 weeks, as long as they're kept away from fireplaces and radiators and water is topped up regularly in the stand.

A tip from the supplier: When you buy your tree saw an inch off the bottom of the trunk, soak it in a bucket of water and keep it outside until you're ready to bring it in.

We're happy to take orders for Christmas trees — and if you need your tree delivered, please get in touch. Our delivery capacity is limited, but we'll do our best to help anyone who can't transport their tree home.

We hope to welcome some of our local suppliers on the day offering tastings, along with a cake and plant stall organised by our volunteers, and we'll also be serving mulled wine to add a festive touch.

Milland Coffee Morning

Finally, don't forget our bi-monthly get-together which will take place on the **10th December from 10-11.30am**. Everybody welcome.



Supporting Local: Stories from Village Store Suppliers

Jack Gratton

At the centre of our community, Milland Village Store has long been more than just a convenience shop — it's the beating heart of village life. Whether you're popping in for your morning paper, a loaf of bread or a friendly chat, the store remains a proud celebration of local produce and artisan craftsmanship.

Following the theme from last time showcasing local suppliers, this time we focus on Bread.

SØDT Bakery – Artisan Bread with a Danish Soul

One of the highlights for regulars is the store's partnership with SØDT Bakery, known for its slow-fermented, hand-shaped loaves and irresistible pastries. Baked fresh and delivered straight from the ovens of this celebrated local bakery, SØDT's bread has become a firm favourite for anyone who values real flavour.

Tucked away in the rolling hills around Petworth, SØDT Bakery is quietly leading a bread revolution. Every loaf and pastry is handmade by founder Troels Bendix and his small team of bakers, who believe that good bread takes time — and that great food connects people and places.

SØDT (pronounced "soot") means "sweet" in Danish — a fitting name for a bakery born from warmth, craft, and care. Troels, originally from Denmark, spent years working with artisan bakeries in London before settling in West Sussex in 2015 to open SØDT.

"My inspiration came from the bakeries I grew up with," Troels explains. "Baking was about more than just food — it was about community, conversation, and the smell of fresh bread drifting through the village each morning. That's what I wanted to bring here."

The bakery draws on the Danish idea of **hygge** — comfort, contentment, and the simple pleasure of good bread shared with friends.

SØDT's breads are made the traditional way: slowly, by hand, with natural ingredients and long fermentation. The result is loaves with real depth of flavour, a perfect crust, and the kind of texture you only find in true artisan bread.

Every loaf tells its own story of patience and precision — the antithesis of industrial baking. "We could make bread faster," says Troels, "but we'd lose what makes it special. Bread should nourish the soul as much as the body."

A top tip from Troels:

"Good bread should be treated like good cheese — let it breathe. If you can, store it in a paper bag or linen wrap, not plastic. That way, it stays crisp on the outside and soft inside."

Pair your loaf with local butter or honey from the store's shelves, and you've got a breakfast that's pure hygge.

Local Roots, Shared Values

For Milland Village Store, partnering with SØDT Bakery is about more than stocking delicious bread — it's about supporting a nearby business that shares the same values of **quality, sustainability, and community**.

"Having SØDT bread, pastries and breakfast ryeola on our shelves has been a real hit," says Kriszta, the Shop Manager. "People love knowing it's baked just down the road in Petworth, and that it's made with honest ingredients."

Ordering local products helps reduce food miles, keeps money circulating within our region, and connects our customers to the story behind what they eat.

SØDT's bread and pastries are delivered fresh to Milland Stores Tuesday to Sunday. Stocks can be limited, especially at weekends, so we are happy to take orders all year long, especially around Christmas time!

For more about SØDT's story, visit www.sodt.co.uk or follow @sodtbakery on Instagram for a peek behind the scenes of the bakery's daily craft.

The Milland Stores team are passionate about working directly with small, independent suppliers. "We love being able to tell customers exactly where their food comes from," says Kriszta "Every item we stock has a story — and most of them start just a few miles from our doorstep."

We also stock more traditional bread which comes in fresh from Bakehouse Liphook which is a family run traditional craft bakery in the heart of Liphook.

That commitment extends beyond food, too. The shelves feature handmade gifts, cards, and seasonal produce from local craftspeople, making Milland Village Store the perfect place to find something unique while supporting the local economy.



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A visitor from the big brown land Mark Keohane

I was recently invited to 'blow the froth off a cold one'* with Wayne Reed, father of Matthew, of the village. Matt and his dad are Aussies; but while Matt is firmly a local fixture, his folks still reside in Western Australia and visited recently. It's been proposed, more than once, that the Riser might be twinned with the Nannup Hotel, Wayne's local near his country property. (Pubs in Australia are usually called hotels; it doesn't always mean they actually have rooms.)

Nannup is in the country, 270km south of Perth as the kookaburra flies. It's very 'Aussie' and I'd love to go. Wayne says it's been quite a community hub but these days is not as reliable and could do with some investment (Unfortunately unlikely); more Crocodile Dundee than Riser (but isn't that what we want?)

Nonetheless, it's proposed that visitors from the old country (specifically Milland) who make it there and can prove where they're from, will be entitled to a free schooner of something cold. I presume Ben would be prepared to reciprocate? Maybe there are other things we could do to twin...?

At least, I think it was something along those lines that Matt suggested.

Anyway, it would indeed be fun to twin with a genuine Aussie boozier, don't you think?

Wayne commented on the piece in MVN 176 about the arrival of woodland pigs at Downlands Estate, which supplies the shop. James Gilboy of the estate had explained how the pigs root through the forest floor, tilling the soil, breaking up the ground and encouraging new growth, mimicking the natural behaviours of wild boar.

While this is seen in Europe as a way to promote woodland health and biodiversity, Australia is a different kettle of barrumundi. For Wayne, wild pigs are a nightmare and a stark contrast to the idyllic arrangement described at Downland.

In Australia, pigs are a highly damaging invasive species. Their rooting behaviour disrupts fragile soils, causing erosion and water pollution, unlike in Europe where ecosystems can absorb such disturbance. Pig activity in Australia prevents native plant regeneration, damages seedlings, spreads invasive weeds, and threatens wildlife by preying on eggs, reptiles, birds, and small mammals. This competition and predation contribute to the decline of vulnerable species and biodiversity. Additionally, pigs carry diseases like brucellosis and leptospirosis, affecting livestock and wildlife. As a result, pigs are managed as pests in Australia, with efforts focused on eradication or strict population control. Unlike in England, pigs' presence in Australia is destructive and poses serious challenges to conservation and land management.

Wayne sent me some photos of wild pig activity at his place. Quite destructive indeed.

* This is a phrase used, I believe, by Paul Hogan in Fosters ads of some years past. Its meaning is hopefully apparent. Despite his origins, Wayne was not familiar with the expression so maybe it's just a marketing invention. While we were enjoying a beer in Ben's garden, Wayne actually tried blowing the froth off his. It didn't go well.



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FACTOID: Boules - a Gentle Game!

Colin Stopher

Also known as pétanque, boules originated in La Ciotat, France, in 1907, evolving from the more active game of Jeu Provençal. The name "pétanque" comes from the Provençal phrase *pè tancats*, meaning "feet anchored" or "feet planted," because the rules required players to stand with both feet together inside a throwing circle. It was invented for a player who could no longer run due to rheumatism, making the game more inclusive and accessible.

And it certainly is accessible to residents of Milland who would like to while away a couple of hours with a friendly group meeting each **Wednesday at Milland Sports Club between 10.15 - 12.30**, including a break to sit in the sun with your own flask of coffee (or other drink of choice) whilst putting the world to rights with like-minded retired boys and girls!

Yes it's all pretty light-hearted with how you play the game taking precedence over who won or who lost, which matters not!

And the cost of this well spent time is also moderate when you join Milland Sports Club for just £12 a year plus a round pound each time you play.

This helps to support the facilities of this ancient village asset where more youthful members who still work for a living can run around and get sweaty at weekends and practice evenings!

Interested? - contact Colin Stopher (colinstopher@gmail.com) for more information.

And one more thing: you can come along for a free trial, with equipment provided!

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Milland Stores – price comparisons NOVEMBER 2025

	Milland Stores	Sainsbury's
Cadbury Favourites 351g	£ 7.50	£ 7.50
Thorntons Classic Selection 262g	£ 9.00	£ 9.00
Quality Street 220g	£ 3.90	£ 4.00
Lindt Chocolate Santa 125g	£ 4.55	£ 4.50
Dr Oetker Baking Powder	£ 1.65	£ 1.60
Dr Oetker Baking Soda	£ 1.55	£ 1.60
Bournville Cocoa 250g	£ 4.55	£ 4.45
Baileys Irish Cream 1ltr	£ 21.50	£ 22.00
Walnuts in Shell (Hampshire Walnuts vs Sainsbury's 'Packed in the UK' Walnuts)	£ 10.50/kg	£ 11.43/kg
Bacofoil Non-Stick Baking Paper 5m	£ 3.50	£ 3.75
Note: Prices are correct as of 5th November, and do not include any promotional prices e.g. Nectar Price offers		

What's Going On Up Milland Lane? Jeremy Parker

Users of Milland Lane will have become accustomed to the more or less constant flow of water down the lane below the bridge – very irritating for residents, dangerous in the winter and damaging to the lane for hundreds of metres down the hill. The lane has been closed four times so far this year, for investigations, jetting of the drains and most recently for replacement of a culvert across the road. But the water keeps flowing..... Why?

Believe it or not, it is all Africa's fault! Millions of years ago, Milland – or at least the spot on the globe where we now live, was under water – a long way under. Over many millennia, very fine sediments were washed into the sea, which formed a thick layer of clay – now the Weald. A change in the environment resulted in a change of the deposit, to a coarse sandy sediment, which eventually became rock – greensand. Another major change resulted in the deposit of the remains of dead marine organisms, which became chalk – about 400m thick.

Then, 140 million years ago, Africa began to move north; it is still coming. First, it pushed up the Alps, then it created giant ripples in the chalk and underlying strata across northern France and England. Cracks in the tops of the ripples quickly led to erosion of the chalk and exposure of the greensand, which, being soft, was also eroded. The South Downs are the remains of the southern side of one of these chalky ripples.

Greensand is very porous and acts like a giant sponge, while the underlying clay traps the water, which is good for us as it forms an aquifer, from which we get our water. However, where the greensand has eroded completely away, the water leaks out. There is a line of such leaks all along the hanger – or exposed edge of the greensand – that runs roughly east-west from Haslemere to near Petersfield. This is what is causing the problem on Milland Lane.

When the lane was cut through the rock over 100 years ago, the water was collected in a number of large underground tanks and put to good use. Some of it was piped down to the pottery (the pipe still runs through our garden); some was used in the laundry for Milland Place and it also supplied the cottages along the lane. This complicated network of tanks, pipes and culverts required a lot of maintenance, which has been largely ignored for decades and so they have become choked with tree roots. The enormous increase in the volume and weight of traffic on the lane over the years has added greatly to the problem as pipes and culverts have collapsed under the strain.

What's the answer? Nobody, least of all WSCC Highways, is sure – yet. Recent surveys have revealed that some 230m of drainage pipe must be replaced; repairs are required to the sewer and gullies must be realigned. The fate of the old tanks is uncertain. This work – roughly estimated at £500,000, is planned for some time in the next financial year and will involve another road closure, this time for 6 – 8 weeks.

In the meanwhile, watch out for new dips and hollows, caused by water washing away the ground under the road; avoid them if you can – they might be covering sink holes and you could be swallowed up, car and all!

Solar panels in Milland 50 years ago

Val Porter

In the archives for Milland's local history I have come across an architect's detailed drawing for 'Proposed Installation of Solar Heating Panels' at Mill Farm, Milland, date July 1975 – that's half a century ago. The owner of Mill Farm at the time was Brian H. Colquhoun and the drawing was by Arthur H. Shearing, FRIBA. The site plan shows 'Corn Mill' (i.e. Agecroft Mill) upstream immediately to the north of the Mill Farm buildings, and downstream it marks Durrants Pond, with the stream passing under the road. There is no sign of what is now Mill Vale Meadows on the map – that site was then simply part of 'Milland Marshes'

The site for the proposed 'solar heaters' was to the south-east of the Mill Farm buildings, on the western edge of the stream. There are very detailed sketches of the frame structure, described as 'A' frame support; the frames are of 3x2-inch softwood treated with preservative and bolted together with 3/8-inch diameter coach bolts. The approximate height of the A-frame when in place was about 5ft 3in, mounted on a 4-inch concrete slab at ground level. The 'collector' panel was held in place (top and bottom) by galvanised mild-steel straps. The assembled panels covered a total length of 44ft 4in in two groups of six panels each. It was proposed to plant shrubs to the south of the panels.

It was not until 1978 that the first solar panels in the UK were installed (at the University of Sussex). So it looks as if Milland was well ahead of its time!

Riser Puff

Landlord Ben Burston

What a difference a year makes. I think last year's Christmas edition of this fine tome was peak landlord misery. Obviously, all of it was entirely justified. It had been raining constantly for six months, Labour's election win had left most of the shires in a state of depression (and refusing to spend money), employment taxes were catching their breath before rising inexplicably again, and everything felt a bit, eh, crap. Against all the odds this year at the pub started with a 'sod it' attitude and continued recklessly through spring. The weather even started to sort itself out, promising a sunny and hot summer, which it duly delivered. A largely dry and warm autumn has continued to keep weather excuses at bay for another season (vague weather references courtesy of my failing memory).

We've done a few sensible things too. At the start of the year we went 'all day' on Sunday dining and can often be found rammo'd in late afternoon, as a result. In February we launched the Light Lunch menu which has rallied the nebulous lunch trade (for those who don't while away the week lunching in pubs we offer two small plates, a soft drink and a coffee for twenty quid). In April I forked out a small fortune on a frozen cocktail machine, gloriously foretelling the beautiful summer. 789 cocktails later I'm not too humble to recognise it was a good decision! Then in September we launched all day dining on Saturday, taking advantage of '3.30pm Saturday' apparently being the busiest time of the week for pubs in England these days (but not quite Milland).

In contrast to a year of notable evolution, our Christmas schedule looks remarkably similar to those of the last decade. As they say, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. [copy and paste last year's preamble and schedule / adjust dates]

Silly season will soon be upon us and our programme of events can be viewed on pub blackboards and table toppers, on our website and now here. Please book early, particularly for Christmas Eve, Boxing Day and the curry & quiz night. We are also an acquiescent host for your private party, drinks do, pre-Christmas family lunch or dinner party. We can provide bespoke menus if our party menus aren't appropriate. Rarely is any request too much trouble.

As you read this, we will be bidding a doleful farewell to Hugo Hallt, the Dominic Szoboszalai of the Riser. He can play at Bar Front, Restaurant Right and all across Back Kitchen. He's versatile, utilitarian and extremely useful. Like a whisk. Anyone applying for his role will need to have all the sports packages on their iPad, have lager sommelier qualifications, an obsession with Guinness, be able to work hungover, sober and drunk, zone out of busy shifts, and have lots of friends at Bookers. It's not an easy skill set to replicate. I hope the Aussies know what's coming. (Sincerity alert): I'll miss him.

Look out for news of other events, view our two Christmas menus: pre-Christmas party and 'Christmas Fortnight' a la carte menu, book online, visit www.risingsunmilland.com, follow us on socials.

Yuletide Felicitations,

Landlord

Events

Thursday 11th December - Goose Lunch – Three course set menu £40 – By reservation and pre-order only. Other main course options. Massive jolly.

Friday 12th December – Christmas Party Night – Live music & dancing with Riser favourites, Manti from 9pm in The Lodge. Get off the tables.

Saturday 20th December – Carols & Mulled Wine with Rev Trish – 5.30pm in the pub. Sooo village.

Christmas Eve – Christmas Social – Serving food, drinks and good times all day. Food served 12-9pm. Almost too much atmos.

Christmas Day - pop in for a drink between 12 -2. Happy Christmas!

Boxing Day – The big day is done. Now sit back and relax with us. Open 12-6pm / Food served 12-4pm. Relax.

Sunday 29th December – Christmas Quiz & Curry Night – Teams of 6 * £20 per person * Includes curries, sides, quiz entry & prizes * Food served from 7pm * Quiz starts at 8.30pm * By reservation only. Brainiac's big night out.

New Years Eve Party - DJ & dancing until 2am * A la carte dining 6-9pm * Free entry. Obviously.

New Years Day Lunch – Begin 2026 with a replenishing lunch, Bloody Marys on tap! * Open 12-6pm / Food served 12-4pm. Nearly over!

CLUBS

Cartersland Green Wildflower Meadow - A Summary 2024-25

Sue Strike

The end of season mow was completed in style. Jake from SDNP managed to persuade members of the western team to test their new 'cut and collect' machine on our green. Jake duly arrived on 15 September with the impressive piece of kit on a trailer. After some adjustments to the blade height and mowing speed the job was completed within the day, the grass cut, collected and removed. Once again Matt Cussack was happy to take the spoils which were spread over one of his fields. The committee is very grateful to him for his continued support. Islands of devil's-bit scabious were left to finish flowering and to set seed and were scythed down and removed a few weeks later. The green was then left over the winter, though a cowslip was seen in flower on the south-facing slope, on 11 November.

January and February were wet but then drought conditions followed. The display of spring flowers had been compromised by the extremely wet conditions of the previous year and because it was unseasonably warm and dry, those that did flower set seed very quickly and were soon over. The yellow rattle seed sown in front of the bus shelter and on areas adjacent to Milland Lane did not do well. Too dry, too hot.

The coarse grass flowering spikes were topped with shears before they ripened to reduce their density. It's unclear if there has been any impact yet, and the yellow rattle sown last autumn did not germinate.



Devil's-bit Scabious

The chestnut fencing down Milland Lane has been a great success in keeping vehicles off the green. However, there is still access from the Fernhurst Road end. On a couple of occasions vehicles with horseboxes have driven off the road and parked there letting the horses within out to graze. Maybe they were short of grazing, it has been a challenge with no rain and high temperatures, but is the green the right place to address this?

Work was carried out on the centre bed to raise the soil level above the water table and to add an edge of low wood posts to retain the soil. This was done by adding a layer of stone and rubble over the surface before adding the topsoil. Annual wildflower seed was then sown along with red poppy plugs. Unfortunately, there was no rain for many weeks, and the high temperatures meant the seeds failed to germinate, if they did, they very soon withered and died. However, the poppies did flower and have set a large quantity of seed which have been harvested for next year.

The mowing generally was very light and was only carried out three times throughout the summer. There were more grass spoils after the final cut on 18 October than the whole of the summer months. There was an increase in the number of teasles, and the devil's-bit scabious has spread into large clumps putting on a good end of summer show.



Despite the climatic changes year on year the green continues to thrive and to provide an interesting and ever-changing focal point in the centre of our village.

A big thank you to all our volunteers who have helped plant bulbs, remove spoils, cut grass and generally helped to make the green such a pleasurable and diverse habitat. The green is now home to more wildflowers and native wildlife than ever before.

suestrike@hotmail.com

Milland Sports Club Sam 'Tinker' Moulding

Dearest reader,

Following on from my Pulitzer Prize winning article in the previous edition, which I'm sure by now has been read by at least three people, I offer up my latest piece of literary genius for you to completely ignore.

History

As promised previously, here is a brief history of the clubhouse and grounds and their uses over the years. I have been given this information by the long-standing chairman of the club, 'Razor', so if you think anything is incorrect, please feel free to tell him exactly what you think of him.

- The original part of the pavilion of what has now become Milland Sports Club was built by Norwegians during the second Boer War at the very beginning of the 20th century. It was built to be used as an indoor rifle range for training soldiers but was never actually used for that purpose.
- During the 1920s and 1930s the community used the pavilion to host the local flower show and gymkhana. It then became a billiards and working men's club named 'The Rifle Range' and was the hub of the parish until Milland Memorial Hall was built in the centre of the village.
- In 1947 just after WW2, Milland Cricket Club started playing their home games on the field, followed shortly after in the 1950s by Milland Football Club.
- In the 1970s, members of the sports club enhanced the pavilion by adding the bar, toilets, changing rooms and showers to improve the facilities on offer.

Since the 1970s, there has been very little real change to the clubhouse. The odd working party has been arranged which usually involves replacing some part of the timber floor which has been an ongoing job for years, or a lick of paint to cover up some section of rot or usually just the windows owing to the skills of the painters. Those that have visited recently or have any knowledge of the building will know that it really is on its very last legs.

Future

Our plans are simple, replace the clubhouse, and if possible, do something about the terrible drainage. This would obviously be with all the relevant planning permissions, landowner approval, etc. Funding of course is our main issue at the moment. As some of you may know, there is plenty of money out there to be had by grass roots sports establishments in the form of lottery funding, FA grants, etc. However, one of the first stumbling blocks we come up against when trying to apply for these is that we don't

Milland Tennis Club

Mark Dumas

Court usage was strong this year, and despite a few hiccups, the booking system we introduced over the summer is now working well. To book a court, simply visit <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/MillandTennisClub>.

We have recently installed new nets, which are disappointingly effective! We have also battled a record number of acorns recently and will be tackling the autumn leaves in the coming weeks.

September marked our final roll-up session of 2025. We are pleased these social tennis gatherings were popular throughout the summer—always finishing with a trip to *The Rising Sun* afterwards.

Our annual tennis tournament took place on 21st September and was superbly organised by Emma Timberlake. We were lucky with the weather, and teams played on three local courts. This led to exciting semi-finals and an excellent final, clinched in a tie-break by Emma and Neil Cresswell, pictured below receiving the tournament shield. As always, Ben provided the perfect barbecue for all involved. The day even made a small profit, which we have donated to Milland Stores—an important local asset that needs everyone's support.

By the time you read this edition of MVN, we will have just held our annual quiz night. Huge thanks go to Tessa Mountain, Penny Small and Francis Jackson for making it such a fun and popular event.

We continue to welcome new members throughout the year. If you would like to find out more about playing tennis or joining the club, please contact Lizzie at millandtennisclub@gmail.com.

My contact details are: mark@dumas.be or on 07971 087305



currently lease our ground on a long-term agreement. I won't go into too much detail here as we really are in the very early stages, but the landowner has now given us an agreement in principle to a long-term lease which we are extremely grateful for! In time this will allow the club to access the funding that it badly needs to remain a viable operation and asset for the village. Due to a busy schedule of events at the club this summer there hasn't been much time to move forward with this, but rest assured this is now at the top of the agenda. Watch this space...

Football

At the time of writing this article I find myself in a state of utter shock at having watched the mighty Milland (aka The Rifles) win 3 games on the trot, including a 10-1 dismantling of Fittleworth. Striker Tom Openshaw managed to net 5 in that game and now has a haul of 9 goals in just 3 games. He is a favourite of yours truly but is also fast becoming the poster boy of the club, or is that girl, I'm not quite sure as he prefers to wear an Alice band while he's playing. Which does seem to be becoming a trend as club legend Will Hunt also chooses to sport one of these questionable hair accessories.

The last time I remember Milland in as fine scoring form was a famous match from way back in my own playing days where we were 5-0 down at half time to Slinfold in a cup game but managed to pull back to 5-5 at the end of 90 minutes. We then proceeded to score another 5 goals in extra time to win 10-5. I believe we then went on to win said cup under the management of local man Charlie Stopher who surely has one of the most enviable success rates in the club's history. Maybe the current glut of goals could lead to some more silverware?

Events

By the time you read this we would hopefully have completed another night at the annual village bonfire and fireworks. The sports club run the bar for this event which provides much needed funds to keep us going through the year. If you are interested in helping at this or other events in the future, then please get in touch. Beer is exchanged for your time.

I am also pleased to say that the wedding of Bella and Scott Bancroft was a complete success with the reception being held on the field at the sports club. It was a lovely event despite the shocking weather on the day and some very questionable dance moves coming out later in the evening from all involved.

Comment

On more concerning village matters, it has come to my attention that a certain resident of Mill Vale Meadows seems to have a monopoly on winning the annual potato in a pot contest. Perhaps next year we can give him a jolly good thrashing.

Once again, my thanks for your prolonged attention.

Yours truly,

Tinker

P.S. If you happen to have a range-type oven that you are thinking of getting rid of then we may be interested in taking it off your hands. The one we currently have is poor to say the least.

Thank you, Milland and MPC

Hayley Thomson-de Boor

My family and I moved into Milland in Nov 2024, from Headley. We've always loved the Milland recreation ground so much. It's such a beautiful and lovely space. So after a number of years of looking for a house, we were so thrilled to have been able to buy one on Iping Rd, right across from the playground. Unfortunately however, the playground had one drawback for us. Our son Julian was born with left sided hemiplegia, a type of cerebral palsy. This means that his left arm and left leg are significantly weaker than his right and that he doesn't have a lot of function in his left hand. This meant that it was very difficult for him to access the tower in the playground, because the only way to get up onto it was a climbing wall.

When he was a bit younger and lighter, this wasn't too difficult to help him with, but now that he was almost 11 yrs old, it was getting harder and I was also tired of having muddy shoe prints left on my coat as he pushed off me in order to navigate his way onto the platform. His sister, Calla, who is four years younger than him, often tried to help him at the top by pulling him up, but this had also grown increasingly difficult for her.

Things came to a head one day when Calla had a friend with her in the playground and that friend's father had offered to take the three of them to the playground. Julian, who is also autistic, didn't feel comfortable with her friend's father helping him and Calla was too distracted by wanting to play with her friend to spend the time needed to get Julian onto the top platform. This really upset Julian, which was understandable, as he wasn't able to join in with the two younger children who were enjoying themselves. Julian said he never wanted to go back to the playground. This was so upsetting for us, especially as it was right across the road!

At this point, the Milland Parish Council came to our rescue. I emailed the parish clerk, Viki, to ask if the parish had ever considered adding a ladder to the tower, and if not, would they be open to considering it, and explained what our situation was. Viki was so helpful and reported back to me that the parish council "unanimously supported" the idea and asked if Julian and I would help Viki to work with the equipment provider to find the right solution. While there were initially various options available with regards to the different kinds of ladders, we all realised that the way in which the tower is situated on a raised platform meant that there wasn't really any space for a slanted ladder, stairs or a ramp to be added, without removing one of the existing features of the tower, which obviously none of us wanted to do. Thankfully though, Julian is capable of climbing an ordinary vertical ladder and it was possible for this to be added to the tower. This work was completed at the end of Sept 2025, and we were absolutely thrilled.

Julian really seemed delighted at having been part of the decision-making process and understandably this made him feel so special and cared for. What more could a family ask for when arriving in a new village! It's been wonderful to see him able to join his sister on the tower without having to rely on anyone to help him. We would like to express our deep appreciation to the parish council for accommodating Julian in this way and an especially huge thank you to Viki for all she did to facilitate this process. It really meant so much to us!



Milland Memories Val Porter

On a wet October day, between time-consuming copy-editing jobs, I made the mistake of starting to clear out some of my old files – many of which were connected with the history of Milland. One of the files recorded that our **Milland Memories Group** was created informally in 1994 to mount an exhibition of Milland memories at short notice in the village hall, the incentive at the time being the centenary of the creation of England's parish councils (which did not include Milland back in the 1890s – you'd have to wait until the early 1970s for a Milland parish to materialise out of pieces of Trotton, Chithurst, Iping, Stedham etc).

The original 1994 Milland Memories group included Emily Lawrence, Kath Flarry, Ivy Kewell, Christine Sibley, Lorraine Grocott, Isabella Morton-Smith and me and we pulled together nearly a thousand exhibits, including old photos, old maps, documents, newspaper cuttings and artefacts. Much of this had to be returned to original owners immediately so we did a lot of photocopying and kept a note of sources. This was invaluable when, due to public demand, we held a second Memories exhibition the following year, with visitors from all over the country and even from Canada and Australia.

The aim of the group was 'to combine past, present and future by bringing those who used to live in Milland back to the area to meet old friends, and by opening the eyes of relative newcomers and their children to how Milland used to be and making them aware of both their heritage and their duty to keep Milland vibrant and beautiful for future generations.'

At the 1995 exhibition we did not charge for entry but invited anonymous donations, and were pleasantly surprised by the result. We opened a group bank account which, in due course, helped us to produce in 2003 the **first-ever book about Milland's history**: *Milland: The Book* (400 pages and it had taken a huge amount of research) and its companion volume *Milland: Living Memories* (based on interviews with local families). We were lucky enough to succeed in applying for a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to print the main book and to pay for professional help with its design and layout. We were also lucky that Paul Williams, at the time working for PRC in Liphook, scanned many of the old photos for us to store on CD. Both books sold out within the first month and were reprinted twice almost immediately thereafter. In 2008 we did another reprint and added a third book to the series, *Milland: More Memories* (with a grant from WSCC) in time for another Milland Memories exhibition. Since then, there have been more Memories exhibitions – including the ones held last year and on 25 and 26 October this year thanks to the hard work of Lorraine and Isabella (members of the group for more than 30 years).

And here comes my plea. I still have quite a few boxfuls of Milland Memories documents and maps and they are in urgent of a new and permanent home, preferably within Milland and preferably with those of a younger generation who will look after them, sort them out and make sure they are accessible to anyone interested in Milland's local history. It is sad that there is no central place in Milland where such documents can be stored. Please, please contact me if you can help – send me an email (valportermilland@gmail.com).

Planners – Guardian Angels Or Interfering Busybodies?

Jeremy Parker

Tempting fate I may be, but Milland parish is usually pretty quiet on the planning front. For various reasons, not least seemingly intractable sewerage capacity issues and being in the National Park, we do not have many significant planning applications. This makes for harmonious parish council meetings and avoids internecine warfare in the community. However, we do not have to look very far to see the impact of recent planning applications: Liphook is facing the prospect of more than 430 new homes; 68 new homes are planned at Hill Brow; the Andlers Wood development of 77 houses was recently completed at Liss; 210 homes are planned at the Syngenta site south of Fernhurst; 21 homes at the old Wispers School site at Stedham and 65 more at Midhurst. Add developments around Haslemere and Petersfield and our beautiful rural corner of England is getting rather hemmed in.....

The most contentious development of late is undoubtedly that at Hollycombe. This development provided much grist for the local rumour-mill in its early stages, but the very extensive works are to make good a century of wear and tear and to restore the house and grounds to their late 19th century glory – with a few spectacular nods to the 21st. Two current applications by the estate are for a substantial solar array at Hatch Farm, south of the Wheatsheaf Enclosure and for the creation of several ponds and environmental improvement works on the bare grassland at the top of the hanger. The intention is to improve the biodiversity of the area considerably, to create an environment suitable for regenerative farming. The resulting produce will no doubt become available in the shop.

The other application of note, turned down by the planners, was for a modern rectangular flat-roofed house raised up behind the Borden Wood Village Hall. It featured a lot of glass, was deemed to be out of step with the local vernacular style and material and so refused.

If you are concerned about a planning application or development in the parish – either your own or someone else's, do please check the Parish Council website (the issue may well have been covered in a recent parish council meeting), look up the application on the National Park website: <http://planningpublicaccess.southdowns.gov.uk/online-applications/> and get in touch with our new parish clerk, Rebecca Denby (clerk@milland-wsx-pc.gov.uk) or me, as chair of the parish council planning committee (jvvp.millandpc@gmail.com), to raise your concerns.

A village wedding

Rev Trish

Another family wedding for the Ban-crofts, this time in Linch Church, and again the village and church did us proud, it really was a proper village wedding and we feel so blessed that so many of you helped make the day so special for Bella and Scott. It was an amazing day and I know a good time was had by all. Thank you again to our lovely church and community!



Milland History Exhibition Lorraine Grocott

Isabella and I would like to say a BIG 'thank you!' to everyone who came to see the Milland History Exhibition. I hope you will agree it was our



best yet. You may have noticed, we are gradually broadening our exhibition as there is such a wealth of information and photographs locally and in our collection. This time we had the panels for the changes to Hollycombe Estate and House on display. We are all interested to see the big changes being made, sometimes with apprehension! In another corner of the room was a display and story about the original Hollycombe House built in 1810 for Sir Charles Taylor, when he was the lord of the manor of Rogate and Bohunt.

It's always hard to say what draws people into the exhibition. There were displays about people and places including Hollycombe School and the Roman Road along with the country houses including Milland Place, the industries, or to browse through maps and documents. The local churches were also on display, i.e. Tuxlith Chapel, our Saxon church, Milland Church and the 330-year-old St Luke's at Linch. There are countless photographs of old properties both in Milland and Borden Wood which have either been restored or are being restored. We all hark back to the 'good old days', but were they really, without electricity and water?

We were fortunate this time to be able to include an interesting display by the Liphook History Group about the history of the old post and telephone boxes in our local area. Alongside that, Dr Dawn Cansfield* from Midhurst Society has been busy with identifying the graves at St James church, Stedham and researching the history of various people in the graves. She also put a display together about Elizabeth Barlow, an amateur archaeologist and her discovery of an ancient urn at Woolmer Hill. Many people have trod this soil before our time!

Thanks to Angela Carter, Milland Pottery, for the Koralek pottery display, to Milland Joinery, a specialist joinery business and to our guitar maker, for their displays. For info SMB Guitars make bespoke luthiery for the discerning guitarist. Thanks also to Kate Boxer for her zany pictures. There is so much going on quietly in the background in Milland!

Families have always been important to our exhibition, and it is always a surprise and delight when old families call in. The Bridger family is one of the old local families and quite by chance three different sections of the families met up at the exhibition. They are all descended from Sid Bridger and Dave Bridger who both worked coppicing the hazel in the Hangers. Dave's daughter, Maude Bridger, was a staunch supporter of the Women's Institute being chairman for many years. She was wonderful cake maker. Both Ros Luff and Mike Booker dropped by for a chat. It was also nice to see Val Porter.

As ever, we are still hoping to have the collection digitised and we are still looking for somewhere to house it. We look forward to seeing you next year.

* Dr Dawn Cansfield is a mortuary archaeologist and visiting lecturer at the University of Winchester with a particular interest in prehistoric burial practices and what they can tell us about people of the past.

Darwin's Mystery Illness: Was It All In His Mind?

Esther Holford, Acupuncturist and Somatic therapist

For decades, medical historians have pored over Charles Darwin's health records, searching for the root of his chronic illness. Theories have ranged from Chagas disease and mitochondrial disorders to arsenic poisoning, yet perhaps the answer is simpler and far more human: stress, anxiety, and heartache.

Darwin was not a remote genius detached from the world. He endured intense personal tragedy, most notably when his cherished daughter Annie died in 1851 at the age of ten. Annie's death left Darwin deeply traumatised; she was his favourite child, and her passing from what was likely tuberculosis affected him profoundly, leaving a wound that never truly healed.

Many of Darwin's most severe symptoms—nausea, vomiting, heart palpitations, trembling, exhaustion, headaches, digestive problems, insomnia, and depression—mirror those experienced by people suffering from acute anxiety or grief. It's worth considering the timeline: although Darwin showed symptoms from a young age and they worsened in his late twenties; grief and trauma do not follow a neat schedule. Anxiety can escalate over years, especially alongside the burden of revolutionary ideas. Darwin postponed publishing his theory of evolution, fearing the backlash it would provoke. Such psychological strain is enormous.

Annie's death would have intensified Darwin's suffering. Grief often triggers or exacerbates anxiety disorders, leading to a host of genuine physical symptoms. The link between mind and body is powerful—chronic stress can alter digestion, immune response, cardiovascular health, skin, and sleep.

Darwin's experience fits this profile remarkably well. Intriguingly, Darwin's symptoms improved later in life, which contradicts what is typically seen in diseases like Chagas or mitochondrial disorders that worsen over time.

Improvement aligns with someone gradually adapting to anxiety and grief, perhaps finding solace in family, fulfilment in work, or simply growing more at peace with age.

Symptoms such as eczema, boils, dizziness, and visual disturbances can all stem from chronic stress and anxiety. The body often manifests psychological pain in physical ways. Even Darwin's frequent digestive complaints, including flatulence, are classic signs of anxiety affecting the gut-brain axis.

This is not to say Darwin's suffering was imagined; psychological distress can cause real and debilitating physical symptoms. Perhaps it's unnecessary to search for rare diseases when a plausible explanation is at hand: Darwin was a sensitive, brilliant man weighed down by transformative ideas and deep personal loss, whose body mirrored his emotional pain. In time, as he found ways to cope, he improved. Maybe that's the real mystery solved.

Reflexology

Alleviate anxiety



To book an appointment



Edwina Dowling MAR

07595 221 459

www.seahorseandstarfish.com

Redford Village News

Kate Hearle

We have all enjoyed incredible weather this spring and summer, and now autumn is here it has brought some wet and windy weather but still remaining largely pleasant. Like so many places in this country the fruit harvest has been exceptional as has the abundance of fungi and hedgerow berries.

Redford Village Hall Saturday market goes from strength to strength with stallholders contributing a wide range of crafts and delicious foodstuffs. We often have a few drop-in cyclists passing by which adds greatly to the mix.

Our last "Round-up" in May mentioned that the planning application for the former St. Cuthman's School site at the north end of Tote Lane had been given approval in mid-September 2024; we are now over a year beyond that date and still no works have been carried out and a sale has not gone through, although we are told that a change of ownership has been imminent for the last few months. As a result the building continues to degrade. There have been many incidents of so called 'urban explorers' trespassing and gaining access to the buildings, and with the lack of proper security measures low level vandalism is frequent. The immediate neighbours remain very concerned about the state of the building and the site in general, with the local authority seemingly paying no attention to the degradation of the listed building, the renovation and preservation of which was heralded as the reason for allowing such a high level of 'enabling development' within the consent.

The proposal by the National Trust to apply to the secretary of state for planning permission to fence Woolbeding Common is being questioned by many local people. It would be the largest area of fenced common in the country and so it is important that it is properly handled.

Some locals and the commoners have been engaging the National Trust on the fencing plans.

It is very rare for applications for planning permission to be made to fence an entire area of common land, as is effectively proposed here.

Whatever your interest in the common – adjoining land owner, recreational user, commoner – I think we can all agree that has deteriorated considerably over the last 10 years or so, and is in dire need of improvement. That is NT's responsibility but the local community has a strong interest in keeping a close eye on these proposals.

The NT is going ahead with another step in the process of consultation, but is doing so without affording the community an opportunity to express opinions on the proposed management plan. It is said that the management plan will not be ready for some considerable time, whereas the NT still says it will apply for planning permission early in the new year. The Open Spaces Society, as a statutory consultee, makes clear on its website that it would not be a valid process to consult on fencing common land without including a management plan. That has been pointed out to NT again.

The commoners feel the community should be aware of this background when considering how to respond to the invitation to attend a session proposed by the NT on 11 November. It is hoped to arrange an ad hoc community meeting as and when the management plan is available. Expressions of interest in such a meeting would be welcome. Further information can be obtained from David Reynolds (david@bucksfield.co.uk).

Borden Wood Harvest Supper **Jacquie Wood**

A wonderful evening for Borden Wood residents was had in October for the annual harvest supper. Young and old came together for a lovely dinner followed by a quiz superbly delivered by Johannes Wassenberg. A special thanks to Saskia Frost for the most delicious food. And what a delight to hear that for Gill and Peter Thomas it was their 58th harvest supper!

Next event for Borden Wood is Christmas Carols on 22nd December. Mulled wine, mince pies and carols from 7pm onwards.



Classic car corner

Jack Appleton

Jaguar's last separate-chassis saloon boasted 220 bhp, power Jack Appleton steering, and all-disc-brakes, making it a highly-civilised, gentleman's express



Origin:
UK

Top speed:
114mph



Engine:
3,781cc, straight-six

Milland Bonfire & Fireworks – 1st November 2025

John Collier

Bonfire night in Milland was mild and dry and conditions were perfect for a spectacular firework display. The previous day's heavy rain and gale force winds had subsided and the recreation ground was in excellent condition with almost no mud underfoot. Unfortunately, the crowd on the night was one of the smallest that we have seen for many years. There were very few rival displays in the local vicinity this year so we assume that the rain earlier in the day had put people off coming (either that or the draw of Strictly Come Dancing on the TV was too much for them to resist).

Those who did turn up were entertained by one of the biggest and best firework displays ever seen in the village. For this we have to thank the excellent team at Aurora Fireworks in Wisborough Green who planned the whole display for us and trained our launch team to ensure that we complied with all relevant safety standards.

The organising committee invested a lot of time and money to ensure that the night was a credit to the village and as enjoyable as possible. Based on the feedback we have received so far, we think that we succeeded in both of these objectives. Our only income comes from the entry fees that we charge and hog roast sales. Whilst it's too early to know the final result, the reduced crowd numbers inevitably means that income from both sources and therefore our profit will be significantly lower than in recent years. We do need to invest in some new equipment but once the final accounts are available we will distribute all surplus funds, however small, to clubs, organisations and good causes within Milland. Hopefully we will be able to give more details in the next edition of MVN.

On a more positive note, a number of village-based groups also used bonfire night as an opportunity to raise funds.

The Sports Club ran the bar, the Village Hall team organised a raffle, Milland Stores sold hot dogs and coffee as well as all their usual range of products and Hollycombe School sold glow sticks, an array of sweets and homemade cakes. They all had a busy night and raised significant amounts of money for their individual groups.

The organising team, all volunteers from the village, worked in collaboration with the Parish Council without whose support we would not be able to run the event. We

would like to thank the many people from the village who helped in so many ways with organising and running the event. Over 35 volunteers helped on the night as safety marshals, ticket collectors, food servers or by providing specialist electrical and catering services. Due to the large number of locals who turned up on Sunday morning the recreation field and the village hall were cleared in record time. Litter picking around the field and cleaning the village hall toilets are not the most glamorous tasks but they are vital.

Next year's bonfire and fireworks evening will be held on Saturday 7th November, we hope to see you there! If you would like to join our team of volunteers, please let us know.



Remembering

Val Porter

In early August I was more than delighted to have a visit from my long-ago neighbour Clare (then Attwater), who lived at East Kingsham when I moved into West Kingsham way back in 1986 but has been living in Rutland for many years. Back in the 1980s she had two early-teens sons crammed into what was then a very small cottage: the boys had to sleep in bunk beds in one of its two small bedrooms. They had also lived in the heart of Borden Village. Mum and the two 'boys' – now in their 50s – all came to see how things had changed over the past four decades and the memories came flooding out non-stop. I hadn't seen them since they left the Valley and it was a very warm-hearted and very chatty reunion.

The East cottage now looks exactly the same from the front as it had in their time but has been extended at the back as the long-time home of Josie and her three children, and the garden too is quite a lot larger than it had been when the boys were here. And wow, have those boys made successes of their lives! One of them, John, is now the Principal at a huge public school in Ely (King's, founded in 970 AD and one of the oldest schools in the world, now with 1250 boarding and day students), having previously been Head at King Edward's Witley. His younger brother, Hugh, is a highly successful and practical conservationist working in sustainable finance and intent on restoring rainforest in areas where it has been so ruthlessly destroyed by humans wanting to plant palm-oil trees on an enormous scale. Hugh, an environmental and social risk and impact specialist, is also involved in protecting various parts of coastal Cornwall from unwanted developments that threaten local wildlife and local communities. I'm so proud of the two boys who used to be my neighbours! Clare remembered the Great Storm in mid-October 1987, the hurricane that felled a huge number of trees all over the valley and on the hangers and which kept me awake all night. The East cottage was well protected by my West cottage and Clare never heard a thing! She did wonder why there was no power when she got up that morning. Milland would be without electricity for several days and at dawn a team of local volunteers quickly got to work with their chainsaws and tractors to make the lanes passable again. And I also remembered that Clare helped John Frost write his autobiographical 'Nearly There' book (subtitled *The Memoirs of John Frost of Arnhem Bridge*), published in 1991 when he was still living at Northend Farm – to which he devoted a whole chapter, essential reading for every Millander.

It would be interesting to hear of others who have revisited the Valley after many years of absence and to find out what they think of Milland today.

The Organising Committee: Dave Allan, John Collier, Steve McKechnie, Jeremy Parker, George Quinell, Justin Whitehouse



Photo Gallery

Left: Sunset taken by Chrissie May

Above: Rainbow over the Rec

taken by Hayley Thomson –de Boor

Weather Stats John Gilliard (courtesy of the Pollards weather station)

Aug 2025

Highest Temperature	33.1 deg C	12th
Lowest night temperature	4.2 deg C	22nd
Strongest wind	17mph	4th
Highest daily rainfall	20.3mm	29th
Monthly rainfall	48.2mm	

Sep 2025

Highest Temperature	25.0 deg C	19th
Lowest night temperature	1.3 deg C	23rd
Strongest wind	24mph	15th
Highest daily rainfall	25.9mm	3rd
Monthly rainfall	115.4mm	

Oct 2025

Highest Temperature	20.4 deg C	6th
Lowest night temperature	1.9 deg C	30th
Strongest wind	28mph	23rd
Highest daily rainfall	42.1mm	20th
Monthly rainfall	151.5mm	

Local opinions on Milland Valley News

Val Porter

Quite a few years ago we asked local people to comment on what was then a bimonthly known as *Milland News*. We listed a series of questions and asked people to tick if they agreed or put a cross if they disagreed. There was unanimous agreement that the paper is the right page-size (A4), that printing it in colour is a good thing, that advertising is acceptable ('if local' and 'in moderation'), that funding by a mixture of advertising, sponsorship and Rural Fair income made sense, that there should be more content for young people, that schools should contribute their own inserts, that people read most of the items, and that the church magazine should remain separate. There was disagreement on the need for more pages and quite strong disagreement that the paper should be published monthly or quarterly rather than bimonthly and definitely disagreement that people should pay to receive their copies. There was also definite disagreement that the paper should go on-line *instead* of being printed on paper, or that local businesses or the parish council should fund the paper. There were mixed views on the statement 'There is not enough juicy gossip in the paper'!

Now that there is no longer a Rural Fair to help with funding, It might be interesting to do another 'market research' survey.

[Comments welcome. Ed]

Hot and tasty new businesses

Mark Keohane

We're always keen to hear about the birth of new local businesses and I was recently alerted to interesting new developments up at Hollycombe Home Farm.

I'm sure at least some of you already know Christine Hopps, owner of mobile espresso bar, Ground Café. And some of you may also know Megan Howlett, founder of the foraging business Terra Vitum.

I've known Christine since the days when I used to commute into London, picking up a latte on my way through Liphook station every morning. I'd no idea she had such a passion for sauna. She's actually had a sauna made!

Megan has a big social media following, having turned a lifelong passion for nature into a foraging experience business in 2021.

Both operate their ventures out of Home Farm but have teamed up to offer a range of sauna and foraging experiences, some of which creatively combine the two. They hosted me for an afternoon so I could sample the sauna and foraging experience. It was a lot of fun.

Having soft-launched their collaboration earlier this year they are now in full swing, taking lots of bookings. Christine had her wood-fired sauna built from scratch in the traditional Finnish style and has completed sauna master training. Her business is called Copper Glow Sauna and the sauna itself is named Orna; a Hebrew name meaning pine tree and symbolising strength and resilience. Sauna is said to defend against ailments such as dementia, sleep issues, anxiety, high blood pressure and cardio-vascular disease, among others.

Foraging is a year-round activity; the wooded areas above the farm are apparently "amazing for mushrooms". Foraging is about "connecting with nature and self and food". Megan greeted me carrying a large basket of eye-catching fungi gathered that afternoon.

Experiences for individuals or groups include watching the sun set from inside the sauna; foraging walks to gather lunch or herbs for the sauna; whisk

making workshops (the whisk is used in the sauna to circulate the aroma, which is good for the circulatory system); a sauna ritual; and even the making of canapes using foraged food.

More information at

copperglowsauna.com and terravitum.co.uk.



Reducing Nuisance Phone Calls on Landlines

Claire Collins

Recently, I spoke with a local couple who were receiving several nuisance phone calls every day, some silent, some sales calls, and others that felt quite suspicious. They didn't realise there are a few simple ways to reduce these unwanted calls, so I thought it might be useful to share the information.

Register with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS)

The TPS is a free service that stops *legitimate* marketing calls. You can register online at www.tpsonline.org.uk or by calling 0345 070 0707.

While this won't block scams (as they're illegal anyway), it helps reduce sales and marketing calls.

The big change: landlines going digital

Traditional copper phone lines (analogue) are being phased out and replaced with **digital phone services** that run through your **broadband router**.

- Your home phone will plug into the router instead of the old wall socket.
- You'll still have a normal landline number — it just uses the internet instead of the old phone exchange.
- Providers are calling this service different things: Digital Voice (BT); Broadband Talk (Sky); Digital Voice (Talk Talk); Fibre Phone (Virgin Media)

How call blocking works on digital lines

Built-in spam and scam filters can automatically block or flag known nuisance numbers before they even reach your phone. Filters are updated regularly by your provider, so they adapt over time.

Provider-managed blocking lists enable you to log into your **online account** or **mobile app** and manage blocked or approved numbers. For example, with BT Digital Voice, you can view and block numbers directly from your call log via the My BT app.

Advanced call screening options let you turn on **anonymous call rejection**, **international blocking**, or **screening for unknown numbers** (where callers must announce their name before being connected).

Smart handsets and routers provide built-in blocking and screening features if you use a **Digital Voice handset** (like BT's new phones),

Third-party call blockers like **TrueCall** or **CPR Call Blocker** still work with most digital phone systems, as long as they connect between the router and your phone base unit.

What you can do now

- **Check with your provider** whether you've already been moved to digital or when it will happen.
- **Ask what call-blocking tools** are included with your new digital service – they're often free but may need activating.
- If you use a **personal alarm or medical pendant**, confirm it will still work with the new setup (some older ones need an upgrade).
- **General Tips**
 - Never share personal or banking details over the phone unless *you* made the call.
 - If you receive a scam call, **hang up immediately** and report it to **Ofcom** or **Action Fraud** on **0300 123 2040**.

If you don't recognise a number don't feel you must answer it. A genuine caller will normally leave a message.

These simple steps can significantly reduce unwanted calls, reduce stress, inconvenience and the risk of scams, especially for those living alone.

If you know someone who might benefit from this information, please pass it on, and enjoy a bit more peace and quiet at home