

the Miller's Tale

the LOCK-DOWN - LITERARY EDITION



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NEIGHBOURS, EVERYBODY NEEDS GOOD

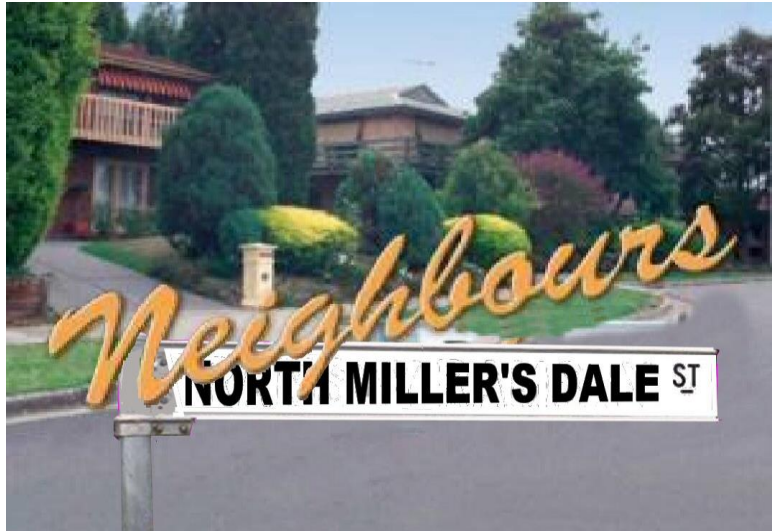
NEIGHBOURS

By Charles Lewry

Very few of us will have experienced first-hand the 'Blitz Spirit', but as the lock down takes hold, we need to draw on reserves of British resolve to see us through the months ahead. The 'Blitz Spirit' is described as '*stoicism and determination in a difficult or dangerous situation, especially as displayed by a group of people*'. North Miller's Dale is fortunate in being a very community minded group of people, and at times like this, it is a great opportunity for us to come together to work as a caring community and to look out for our neighbours.

So what can you do to help your local vulnerable and quarantined people? An idea which seems to be circulating is to distribute a small note to all your immediate neighbours, giving them contact details, so that if they are stuck inside, you can offer to assist with provisions or medicines and probably most important a listening ear on the telephone. Elderly people in particular will be feeling more lonely and isolated and just knowing they can talk to someone on the phone could make a world of difference to them.

Despite the difficulties, we felt that it was even more important that this copy of the Miller's Tale was available to all the residents of North Miller's Dale. It may be that not everybody follows Facebook or our website, so please let as many of your neighbours know that this is available online or if they don't have the internet consider printing them a copy. Have a think, how many of your nearby neighbours do you know, are there elderly people within a few houses of you? Are they coping with being



asked to stay in their house for the foreseeable future. Are they running short on supplies or human contact?

We've seen examples of the worst and most selfish traits coming out in some people, but what better time to prove we are better than that. If you are one of the people stuck inside, and are thinking I don't want to be a burden and I can cope, please don't be afraid to ask for help. With volunteering it's not just the receiver who benefits, the giver of help gets real positive feedback from helping others. People will want to offer help and will enjoy being able to do it.

We're going to have a lot of time on our hands, so whether a giver or receiver, enter into the spirit of neighbourliness, and do your bit to help us get to the other side of this situation feeling we have gained something along the way, and that North Miller's Dale will be seen as a really great place to live.

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the Information board



To hire the North Millers Dale Community Hall

Contact via Phone

Matt on 02380 2741 weekdays 9:00-6:00 or email editor@nmdca.org.uk

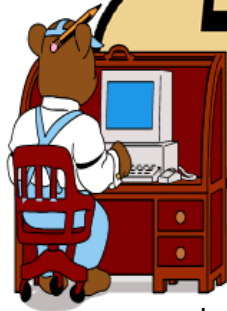
When calling please email: editor@nmdca.org.uk

Community Hall Keyholder

0268562 editor@nmdca.org.uk

Not currently available

Local focus



By the Editor

This is a bit of an unusual newsletter because as I am typing this I don't know if we will be able to get it printed. One way or another we will get it out to as many people as possible but it may be that it will have to become an electronic version. That is a plus because it's cheaper but a minus because not everybody will get a chance to see it.

As I mentioned on the front page, now is a opportunity to bring out the best in people and I was heartened to see a local initiative going under the name of Chandler's Ford Help. They dropped leaflets through the doors in Chandler's Ford offering help to the older and vulnerable neighbours with shopping, collecting prescriptions and a listening ear. Last time I looked they had over a thousand volunteers. They can be found on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/CFHELP

Since its inception the Miller's Tale has always had a nod to Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales in its title. We have decided to try out a themed edition this quarter as a slight variation on our normal Miller's Tale format. It has become apparent that North Miller's Dale and the wider Chandler's Ford has quite a few good authors in its midst. We have, over the years, celebrated the work of some of them in our newsletter but thought it might be appropriate to recognise our local talent in a 'literary edition'.

Spring is here and nature is putting on a growth spurt. It seemed like a good time to have a meeting with James Duigud of Eastleigh Borough Council and a member of Eastleigh Council's Streetscene department to discuss the public areas of North Miller's Dale, and the overhanging hedgerows. On the whole we found that the general state of our paths was being kept well under control, but that there were examples around, where shrubs owned by householders were beginning to make some footpaths narrower. Homeowners are reminded that they are responsible for trimming any plants that are rooted on their property but are overhanging public thoroughfares.

Useful Numbers

Instead of thumbing through the Telephone Directory or Yellow pages to find that important number, look no further than the Miller's Tale. If you have any suggestions for a useful number that is not included please contact us

Editor Millers Tale Charles 023 8026 8562
Gillian 07917 858 752

Emergencies

Electricity (Power Cuts) 0800 072 7282
Gas (escapes) 0800 111999
Police (non urgent) 101
Southern Water 0330 303 0368

Schools

Hiltingbury Infant School 023 8026 5414
Hiltingbury Junior School 023 8026 1808
Knightwood Primary 023 8026 1900
Merdon County Junior School 023 8026 5255
Thornden Secondary School 023 8026 9722
Toynbee Secondary School 023 8026 9026

Post Office

4 Ashdown Road 0345 722 3344

Local Services

Chandlers Ford Library 0300 555 1387
Eastleigh Tourist Information 023 8026 5500
Eastleigh Borough Council 023 8068 8000
Blue Star Buses 01202 338 421
Zelabus 02380 644 715
Southampton Int Airport 0844 481 7777
Red Funnel Ships 023 8001 9192
Railway Enquiries 0871 244 1545

Medical Services

Park Surgery, Hursley Road 023 8025 2131
St Francis Surgery, Valley Park 023 8025 2131
Boyatt Wood Surgery 023 8061 2051
Fryern Surgery 023 8027 3252
Eastleigh Health Centre 023 8061 2032
Southampton General Hospital 023 8077 7222
Winchester Hospital 01962 86 3535

Dentists

Hursley Road Dental Practice
157 Hursley Road 023 8026 7141
Vital Dental Care
67 Bournemouth Rd 023 8026 7889

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North Millers Dale Community Association

Or drop articles into:
8 Weavers Place
North Millers Dale

FLEXFORD DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

By Charles Lewry

Back in February in those days when meetings were still an option, representatives of the developers of the Wheelhouse Park site joined local residents in the Farmhouse to talk about the proposed retirement village. Their main agenda was getting local involvement in the naming of the village with references to people, places or concepts that would have resonances with the history of the area. Although not implicit I suspect it was also a PR exercise planned to get locals 'on side' with the project. But to be fair they were listening to the feedback and concerns that were raised at the meeting. They also showed the assembled residents the latest plans and discussed how the building work and later the occupation of the site would impact people living nearby.

I recently contacted Phil Harvey of Fluid Ideas, who hosted the meeting to see what progress had been made and he wrote back to say:

'There's been some really good progress – and that's all down to the support and information you all helped me with.

So I went through with the Marketing Director – he loved the ideas – we then had an internal meeting with the wider team – they chose one route and I'm currently waiting for feedback so we can get it all signed off by the powers that be! (The Covid-19 situation has obviously taken over so we're a bit in limbo). Which means I can't let the cat out of the bag



just yet – what I can say it was one of the suggestions everyone supported and I'll be in touch.'

A bit of a guarded reply, but I suppose that, in these uncertain times, it is hard to plan anything even in the short term. For those of you who may not have seen our online report following the pub meeting. James Parkhurst from Inspirational Villages showed us the latest plans that were due to be submitted to the Test Valley Council for approval. The scheme was broken into several phases with the first being the main building, which occupies some of the left hand side of the site. This will house the reception, restaurant and wellness centre, which includes a swimming pool. It is planned to be three floors high but should have less impact on the Flexford Close properties as its position is on the far side.

In the early stages there will be a marketing suite to the right of the entrance. James said that work would only be taking place on the site during normal business hours 08:00 – 17:00 and should take two and a half to three years. Subject to planning permission, they were hoping to start Phase one in September this year, although I guess that is less certain now.



NEWS OF QUIZ CANCELLATION GOES VIRAL??

The best laid plans, as they say, but we hadn't taken into account the arrival of the COVID19 virus when we had arranged a date for our Spring Quiz. Phil Heller had the date in his diary and had written a challenging set of questions for what promised to be another enjoyable night. But, in the week leading up to the 14th March we started to have people getting in touch with us to cancel their places and by Friday we had no choice but to postpone the event.

Given the unsure situation and peoples natural caution with the health of themselves and members of their teams, the outcome was not unexpected. In fact Phil had already cancelled a quiz he was due to be running the day before as well. Hopefully things will get back to normal soon and we can reschedule the quiz later in the year. In the meantime, if we find ourselves stuck inside our homes there will be lots of opportunity to read a few books and do some research for the next quiz, when we eventually manage to fit it into the schedule.

LITERALLY LOADS OF AUTHORS IN CHANDLER'S FORD

By Gillian Warde and Doreen Lewry (and others)

We were surprised at the number of people in Chandlers Ford who are published writers. We wondered if the writers we have spoken to would agree with this quote. "The scariest moment was always just before you start".— **Stephen King, On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft**. How many of us have a story inside us just waiting to get out? As children we spend a lot of our time writing stories, so why don't we continue to write as adults?

When we were looking at quotes to start this article, we were amazed by the number of authors who stated that in order to write you need to read. Does reading inspire you to write?

"Read, read, read. Read everything -- trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it. Then write. If it's good, you'll find out. If it's not, throw it out of the window."— **William Faulkner American writer and Nobel Prize laureate**

Some of our local authors told us why they write:



Nicky Slade: 'I always wanted to write and at first I wrote short stories for children and for women's magazines, A passion for history and for reading has been a great influence on why I mostly write historical mysteries; living halfway between Romsey and Winchester, surrounded by ancient stories, means I have the perfect setting on my doorstep.

My first novel, *Scuba Dancing*, was a romantic comedy but I soon settled into writing the Charlotte Richmond Mysteries set in 1858, followed by three contemporary murder mysteries, this time featuring retired headmistress, Harriet Quigley. Then came my award-winning best-seller, *The House at Ladywell*. For this and for my recent books I've used

a fictionalised version of Romsey. A follow-up novella, *Christmas at Ladywell* was published last November. I'm always touched when readers say they love my books and it was lovely that my WW1 mystery, *The Convalescent Corpse*, made readers laugh and cry. Music to an author's ears!


Barbara Hillier: 'As a child, I enjoyed writing and would fill exercise books with my stories. I'm not a professional writer. My career was in education. However, having been in Chandler's Ford and seen many changes as I grew up, I felt its story should be told. Much research (with the help of my late mother), many conversations and the collecting of photographs led to the publishing of my first book in 1984. It was published by local publisher Paul Cave, and was followed in 1994 by a *Pictorial History*. I met **Gerald Ponting** when he and his wife attended an evening class which I led at Toynbee School on the history of Chandler's Ford. In 1998, Gerald and I produced *Chandler's Ford – Then and Now*. In 2005, we produced a revised and updated version of my first book called *The Chandler's Ford Story*. Gerald is an author in his own right and has many books to his name. He has written several about history and archaeology both locally and in Scotland.'

Antony M Brown: Antony has written a more comprehensive report, which can be found on the back page.

Claire Gradidge: 'As an only child, living on a small farm in Romsey, I didn't need a magic wardrobe to discover new worlds, I just opened a book to find companionship and adventure. By the time I was 10, I'd read all the library had to offer, so I started to write my own stories. And I've been writing ever since!

Late in life, I went to university to study Creative Writing, eventually achieving a doctorate in 2018. For my PhD thesis I had to write a novel – and *The Unexpected Return of Josephine Fox* was the result. I love detective fiction, and I love history, so historical crime was my go-to when I was deciding what to write. And Romsey is in my bones, so it had to be my setting.

I entered the Richard and Judy competition on a whim – never expecting to win. It was one of the best days of my life when I heard my book



It is with great sadness that we have to announce that the initiatives we planned to roll out for takeaway, community meals and essential goods have had to be abandoned.

The safety of our staff and their job security has to be priority and their salary funding and their health could be at increased risk if we don't close fully until further notice.

THE HILTONBURY FARMHOUSE


I realise this will be disappointing but I feel this is the right decision.

We will miss you all.

See you at the MEGA re opening party!

Much Love

Rob, Emma, Hana, Nicola and all the Farmhouse Family xx



Authors Con'd.

had been chosen. I'm still reeling from the excitement! Two questions I'm often asked – yes, I am working on a sequel. No, I haven't met Richard and Judy, but I'm forever thankful that they chose my book.'

Janet Turner: 'I began writing stories for my children when they were small, and then I couldn't stop. Now I write mainly mystery novels. All my stories grow from a location which I know or visit, and in my imagination, I can see something untoward happening there. In my works, you can identify several locations in the Chandlers Ford vicinity. Before beginning I research relevant aspects like history, processes or employments and as I progress I research other details such as weather, tide times or whose responsibility something is. I am currently working on two children's books. My books are self-published and are available on Amazon.'

Sally Howard, Catherine Griffin, Maggie Farran and Karen Stephen co-wrote 'Secret Lives of Chandler's Ford' and 'More Secret Lives of Chandlers Ford.' The two books are available to buy on Amazon in kindle and paperback versions.

'We met at a local creative writing class several years ago. We were keen to develop our hobby and formed a writing group to discuss story ideas and read our work to each other. After several meetings consisting of coffee, cake, and gossip, the idea for a collection of fictional short stories set in and around Chandler's Ford was born. Sally is a working mother of two daughters. Sally enjoys writing for children and young adults. She unwinds by cooking and reading (sometimes at the same time, with mixed results.)

Catherine hails from Bristol. After working as a software engineer, she is now a full-time writer of fantasy novels. She enjoys writing contemporary stories with a twist. She is a keen gardener.

Maggie is a former Chandler's Ford teacher. Her stories are gentle, family-centred, and often romantic. She enjoys voluntary work and sings in a local choir.

Karen moved to Chandler's Ford for a work project. Twenty years later, she's still here. She works full-time. She enjoys writing across several genres including historical and contemporary stories. Karen loves theatre, books, and socialising.'



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Thank you to all the writers who have contributed to our article, with two award winners among them. Nicola Slade won the Chatelaine 2018 Grand Prize for Romantic Fiction for 'The House at Ladywell' and Claire Gradidge was the winner of the Richard and Judy Search for a Bestseller competition with 'The Unexpected Return of Josephine Fox', both books I would highly recommend.

Congratulations to Nicola and Claire. There is great talent in our area and there are more authors who we have not been able to mention.

Perhaps this might tempt you to read something from a local author. Now that our library, unfortunately, is closed due to the present circumstances, you can still get some of these books online from Waterstones or Amazon. We hope you will enjoy reading some of these and do let us know for our next Miller's Tale.

EXCITING BOOK TITLE COMPETITION

Solve the anagrams and win a signed copy of Nicky Slade's latest book 'The Convalescent Corpse'

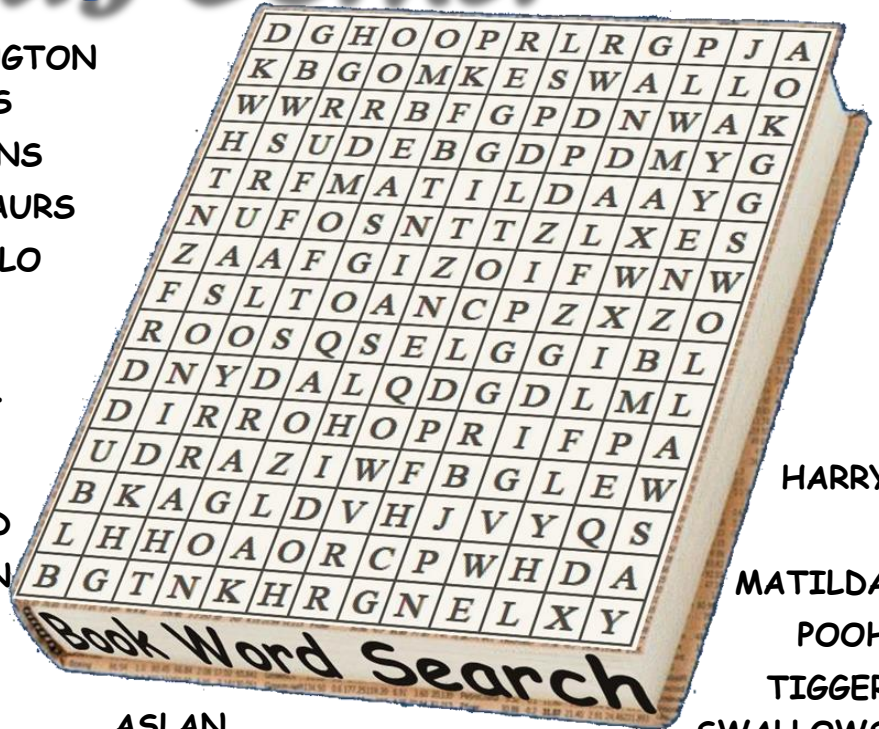


Submit your answers to editor.nmdca@virgin.net by **Monday 6th of April** The first correct answer after **12:00 midday** will receive the prize



Kids Corner

PADDINGTON
BIGGLES
AMAZONS
DINOSAURS
GRUFFALO



HARRY
MATILDA
POOH
TIGGER
SWALLOWS
PEPPA

HOBBIT
POTTER
WIZARD
DRAGON
ALICE
BFG
HAGRID
HORRID

ASLAN
BILBO
GANDALF

Junior Book Title

Anagrams

Heath intact
(5 words)

Downhill wettish wine
(5 words)

Buyback tale
(2 words)

Aden surrealist
(2 words)

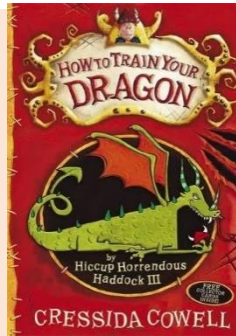
Handwrite swop
(2 words)

Barbi petter
(2 words)

My favourite book

By Adam Pearson, 9 years old
How to Train Your Dragon, by Cressida Cowell.

I like it because it is interesting how Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third



from the Hooligan

tribe escapes Alvin the Treacherous and the Dragon Furious with his best friends Camacazi, Fishlegs and Toothless. They are looking for the Dragon Jewel to save the dragons and to save the whole human race.

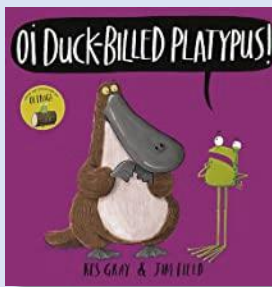
Camacazi is my favourite character because she loves fighting, burgling her Mum's things e.g. her Stealth Dragon (she would kill Camacazi if she found out). Also, she is a Bogburglar and Bogburglars aren't supposed to be friends with Hooligans.

The Wizards of Once is also written by Cressida Cowell.

I would recommend it because it is funny and it puts a smile on your face. It is adventurous, mythical and is a great book for all ages.

My favourite book.

By Stanley Connell
age 7



I like it because it rhymes. It is funny and makes me laugh. It has Kookaburras and Hippopotamuses and other animals with impossible to rhyme with names.



Stanley's favourite book, is 'Oi Duck-Billed Platypus' by Kes Gray and Jim Field, the creators of 'Oi Frog'.

My favourite character is Kate the Kookaburra. I have also read 'Oi Frog' and 'Oi Dog'.

I love books.

My favourite book

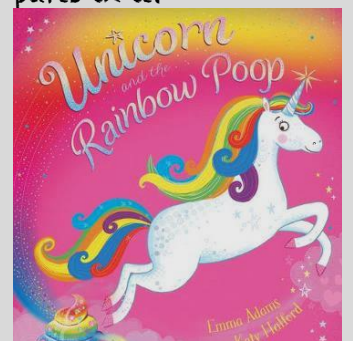
By Jasmine Pearson age 7
My favourite book is The Unicorn and the Rainbow Poop by Emma Adams.

I like it because it has lots of mixed fairy tales

My favourite character is the unicorn because she is very cute and beautiful.

Emma Adams has also written Unicorn and the Rainbow Snow.

I think people should read this book because it has lots of funny parts in it.



RAISING AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS FOR HEDGEHOGS ON THE ROADS:

By Chris Lassam

Last year we bought this Hedgehog Crossing Sign from The Hedgehog Preservation Society for a wall near a crossing point on North Millers Dale— as we knew hedgehogs cross the road there.



Recent research conducted at the University of Sussex, funded by PTES, BHPS and the Mammal Society, has revealed new insights into when, where and why hedgehogs are dying on Britain's roads. 9% of Britain's 400,000km stretch of roads was found to be 'high risk' and particularly dangerous for 'hogs; urban and grassland roadside environments proving the most dangerous. Analysis of 12,500 hedgehog records revealed that there are more casualties in the summer months. It's suspected that the high number of fatalities over the summer is due to the breeding season and the increase in the number of juveniles (hoglets) leaving to fend for themselves.

Better accessibility through gardens: Hedgehogs travel 1-2 kilometres per night so having more holes under garden fences would make it easier for

hedgehogs to travel through our gardens and less on the roads.

Make our gardens safer: By checking that no netting has been left on the ground for hedgehogs to get caught up in; by not using harmful pesticides and weedkillers, which harm the insects that hedgehogs eat and that our pond has a plank so hedgehogs can get in and out safely.

Hedgehogs coming out of hibernation need water and food: A water bowl at ground level filled with fresh water; wild areas including:

long grass; leaf piles and log piles for insects to thrive. Put Hedgehog food out at dusk where you can watch hedgehogs' eating It is a joy. Dried crunchy nibbles are best as you can bring in what they don't eat in the morning. [No milk as Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant]

More advice is available on "Hedgehog Street" the joint website of the Hedgehog Preservation Society and PTES Peoples Trust for Endangered Species.

The North Millers Dale website also has information and links to new Hedgehog information.



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A STILL NIGHT DESPITE THE STORM

By Mary Peterson

While storm Dennis raged outside, some of us gathered together in the Miller's Dale Centre for a convivial evening with our friends and neighbours warmed by some tastings of gin!

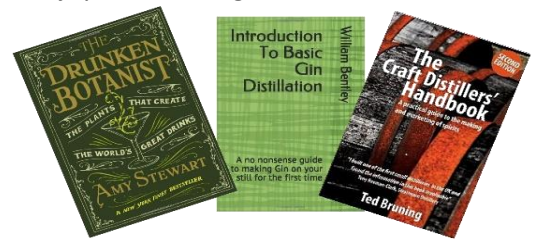


Malcolm & Clio Bellenis had been on a gin-making event and, in 2017, decided to buy a still to produce a special gin for their wedding. They were hooked. They bought a bigger still and they now make and sell many sorts of gin, limoncello (absolutely delicious!), sloe gin and apple schnapps, collecting the apples (with permission!) from Hillier's Gardens.

Nothing is added to the pure alcohol which they buy, apart from botanicals and spring water.

Clio told us about the history of gin making and introduced the gins we tasted. Old Tom is sweetened. Nothing can be added to London Dry apart from water when it comes out of the still, but for some gins, flavours are added after distillation.

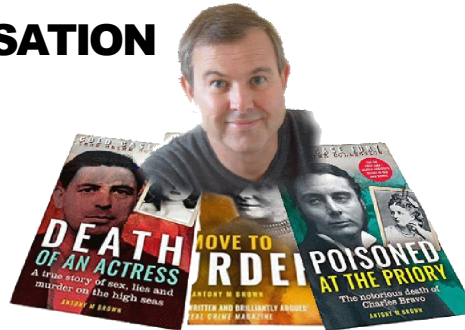
After our tastings the committee had organised a delicious supper for us along with a fun quiz. It really was a very enjoyable evening. Thanks to all involved.



CRIMINAL COMPENSATION

By Antony M. Brown

I'm a North Miller's Daleian and author the Cold Case Jury series of true crime books. In each, I reconstruct an unsolved murder from the past, present original evidence and - after giving my view on the case - each reader is invited to deliver their verdict online. In this way, we can establish a verdict in the court of public opinion for these fascinating real-life whodunits. Last month The Hiltonbury Farmhouse held a special Cold Case Jury evening and diners in the packed pub gave their verdicts on one of the cases I presented. It was a great event - thank you if you attended.



How did I get into writing about historical murders? I've always been a fan of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and was fascinated by them as a university student. I asked myself: were there any real-life crimes from this period (roughly 1875 to 1930) that were as compelling as the fictional ones? I discovered there were indeed "three pipe problems" as the great detective would call them - puzzling, real-life murder

mysteries. All my books focus on murders before 1950, adding a sense of history to the real-life cold cases. After all, crimes are inextricably linked to the time in which they occurred. For example, in Move to Murder, the case pivots around the arrival of a milk boy, who delivered door-to-door each evening after school, pouring fresh milk into householders' jugs from a metal can. That's how it was in the 1930s before refrigerators, cars and supermarkets became necessities in our daily lives. I also select different types of cases: the mysterious poisoning of a wealthy London barrister in 1876; the apparently random shooting of a young cyclist in rural Leicestershire just after WWI; the puzzling murder of a Liverpool housewife in her own front room in 1931; and the disappearance of a beautiful actress from an ocean liner on its way to Southampton in 1947.

My first book was self-published in late 2015 and I then took my idea to several publishers before signing a multi-book deal with Mirror Books in January 2017. It sounds lucrative, but it isn't. Most writers supplement royalty income with real work. For any aspiring writers out there, don't bet your livelihood on being successful. The Guardian recently ran an article titled "A dirty secret: you can only be a writer if you can afford it". I disagree: it's not a secret. Like most lines of work, riches are made by a few but not by the vast majority; this is not a political statement but fact. A casual look at a typical Waterstones reveals the overwhelming volume of books on offer, and only a minuscule fraction make it to the front tables or the window display. But the pleasure of researching a case, creating something original and seeing the result of your efforts even hidden away on a back shelf makes it worthwhile. And the books have led to me appearing on radio and TV numerous times, as well as popping up at our revered local! True crime might not pay, but it does have its compensations.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | The Cat In The Hat - health intact |
| 2. | The Wind In The Willows - downhill wetfish |
| 3. | Black Beauty - buyback tale |
| 4. | Treasure Island - Aden surrealist |
| 5. | Watership Down - handwrtite swap |
| 6. | Peter Rabbit - Barbi petter |