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Tel: 01305 889499 or Mobile: 07813 196 958
Can you believe it but on Friday 16th December, Callum and I have been here for a whole year! We would like to celebrate with everyone with mince pies and mulled wine; do come along and join us.

We would like to say thank you to everyone for your huge support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Best wishes Karen & Callum

Tel: 01305 889547 • Email: martinstownvillagestore@gmail.com • Martinstown Village Store

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We can create the perfect menu for any occasion, big or small
“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.”
Charles Dickens

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CONTRIBUTORS WANTED
If you have a story to tell, an interesting anecdote or some news that you would like to share with others, please send them in - and don’t forget to send photos!
Graham Herbert, Editor – Tel: 01305 889786

Front cover main photograph by Chris Massey & Dec O’Raishun ©2016.
Dear Friends,

I remember well the Christmas dinners at school and the joy and excitement of the occasion, not just because of the turkey and roast potatoes but more especially because of the Christmas pudding. Many of you will remember the tradition of putting a sixpence in the Christmas pudding, before cooking, so that some lucky person would find it when they tucked in. At school we would eagerly anticipate our dessert to discover whether we had been fortunate enough to get a sixpence (I don’t think I ever did) and if we found one we would stand on our chair whilst everyone clapped and cheered. [It wouldn’t be allowed nowadays under health and safety!]

For children that monetary bonus in the pudding added an extra mystique to an already special dessert. Imagine the scene – a couple of hundred children carefully examining their pud, searching each mouthful before swallowing. The concentration was immense as we diligently explored our bowls, digging deeply in the hope of the ultimate prize.

With Christmas, too, it pays look more deeply into things. We can, of course simply enjoy the material elements of Christmas – parties, decorations, food, get-togethers and the like – or we can delve further into what this season is really all about. What can we learn from the shepherds and the wise men, from Joseph and the innkeeper, from the events leading up to the manger and stable and the events that followed? The more we look the more we’ll discover - the full wonder of what God has done and continues to do becoming increasingly clear.

So don’t hurry through Christmas with barely a second thought. The story of the baby born in a stable in Bethlehem 2000 years ago was, at that time, a message of hope for people in real situations in the real world and it still is today for us.

During December we have a plethora of services for both the young and the not so young. Beginning with the Christingle service, and Christmas Tree festival through to Carol Services and the family fun of the Wassail to the beauty and wonderment of the Midnight Service and the joy of the services on Christmas day. So this Christmas look deeply - pause, like Mary, and ponder what it all might mean.

May you, and all those you love, find peace in the season of Advent and joy this Christmas.

Yours in Christ
Jean Saddington - Team Vicar

‘But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.’
Luke 2.19
The Parishes of The Winterbournes & Compton Valence

TEAM RECTOR
Rev’d Canon Thomas Woodhouse (01305 267944)

TEAM VICAR
Rev’d Jean Saddington (01305 889992)
Available on: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Sundays
Please only contact her for urgent matters on other days.

LICENSED LAY MINISTER
Allen Knott (01305 267217)

The Parish of the Winterbournes
There is a single Parochial Church Council for Martinstown, Steepleton and Abbas but each parish church retains its own local church committee.

Churchwardens  Dick Corbett-Winder (889410), John Crawford (889377), Joy Parsons (889611)
PCC Hon. Secretary  Alison Crawford (889377)
PCC Hon. Treasurer  Bruce Robertson

The Parish of Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Compton Valence
Churchwarden & Treasurer  –  Jeremy Russell (01308 482227)
Churchwarden & Secretary  –  Peter Steel (01308 482782)
Dorchester and The Winterbournes Team Website: www.dorchesteranglican.info

Any of the above can be approached in the first instance for Baptism, Marriage, Home Communion or just a visit and they would welcome being told when anybody has been bereaved or is ill. They have answerphones for you to leave a message.

If you want us to remember anything or anyone in the public prayer of the Church, we would be glad to do this as long as permission of the person involved is assured.

---

Vigil for Peace and the Planet

6th Dec. 2016 • 6pm

2016 looks very likely to be the hottest year on record and the main culprit for heating our planet is the carbon dioxide that we burn. More than ever, it is important that the Paris climate change agreement, designed to reduce the world’s output of carbon dioxide, is a success.

So let us take time to sit in silence, with all the emotions and thoughts this brings up within us and see if we can enable any frustration and despair we feel to eventually become radical love; a love that dissolves hatred and challenges us to clearly see what we are doing to the earth.

The next vigil will be on 3rd Jan 2017 at 6pm

---

Dorchester Choral Society Outreach

Monday 12th December 2016
St. Martin’s Church, Martinstown  6.30pm

Dorchester Choral Society brings a free 40 minute concert.

A mix of carols and extracts from the Messiah

Do come to join us in this Winter celebration!
### CHURCH CALENDAR

**December 2016**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td><strong>SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER – 2nd OF ADVENT</strong></td>
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<td>10.00</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td>Winterbourne Abbas</td>
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<td><strong>SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER – 3rd OF ADVENT</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER – 4th OF ADVENT</strong></td>
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<td>10.00</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td>11.00</td>
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<td>Martinstown</td>
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<td><strong>SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY</strong></td>
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**January 2017**

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<td><strong>SUNDAY 1 JANUARY – 2nd OF CHRISTMAS</strong></td>
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<td>16.00</td>
<td>Sung Evensong</td>
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<td><strong>SUNDAY 22 JANUARY – 3rd OF EPIPHANY</strong></td>
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<td>11.00</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUNDAY 29 JANUARY – CANDLEMASS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>Holy Communion for Valley and Valence</td>
<td>Martinstown</td>
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**Food Bank**

Christmas is coming and as you think about what you will eat and what presents you will give, please remember those whose choice will be very tightly limited by what they can afford – should it be heating or eating or presents? The Food Bank particularly asks for a few seasonal items of food as well as the usual staple foods to make Christmas a festival for everyone, including those living on the margins.

Many thanks –John Crawford
# Martinstown Village Hall Notice Board

## Monday
- **Baby & Toddler Group**
  - 10.00am - 12noon
  - Contact: Lizzie Walden - Tel: 07949 639011
- **Table Tennis**
  - 2.30pm - 3.30pm
  - Contact: Margaret Hearing - Tel: 01305 889346
- **Beavers, Cubs & Scouts**
  - 5.30pm - 7.30pm
  - Contact: Sue Gower - Tel: 01305 889388
- **Valley Club**
  - 7.30pm - 10.00pm
  - Contact: Pat Willets - Tel: 01305 889597

## Tuesday
- **Botanical Art Group**
  - 9.30am - 12.30pm
  - Contact: Geoff Roberts - Tel: 01305 815735
  - (Term times only)
- **Dance Group**
  - 2.30pm - 4.30pm
  - Contact: Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248
- **Badminton**
  - 7.30pm - 9.30pm
  - Contact: Trevor Elliot - Tel: 01305 267897

## Wednesday
- **Pilates**
  - 9.30am - 10.30pm
  - Contact: Sammie McFarland - Tel: 07807 090013
- **Chair-based Exercise**
  - 11.15am - 12.30pm
  - Contact: Suzanne Fellows-Joyce - Tel: 01308 426390
- **W.I.**
  - 6.45pm - 9.00pm
  - Contact: Jan Griffiths - Tel: 01305 889738
  - (2nd Wednesday in month)
- **Beginners Dance**
  - 8.00pm - 10.00pm
  - Contact: Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248

## Thursday
- **Art Group**
  - 10.30pm - 12.30pm
  - Contact: Betty Hodinott - Tel: 01305 262217
- **Dance Group**
  - 8.00pm - 10.00pm
  - Contact: Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248

## Friday
- **Keep Fit Class**
  - 10.15am - 11.30am
  - Contact: Suzanne Fellows-Joyce - Tel: 01308 426390
- **Bingo**
  - 7.00pm - 9.30pm
  - Contact: Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248
  - (Every other Friday)

Chairperson: Jane Jones - Tel: 01305 889202

Bookings: Ann Matthews - Tel: 889248 or email: ronann.matthews@btinternet.com
COMMUNITY LUNCH - 9th Dec - all at 12:30 pm.

We’re really sorry that we’ve had to turn people away recently. For obvious reasons, we do have to limit the numbers and in order to shop sensibly and let the cooks know how many to cater for, we need to know how many will be joining us four days in advance, so please be sure to phone Ced on 889438 to book a place. If you’re unable to come, it’s really helpful if you could let Ced know, even if it’s short notice – we’re going to try having a stand-by list, hoping to avoid turning people away.

A big thank you to the small band of stalwarts who not only cook, but set up, serve, wash up and clear away. Help is always appreciated – we particularly need main course cooks.

Please phone Jan on 889738 if you are interested – we do have fun as well!

BABY AND TODDLER
Martinstown

EVERY MONDAY
10-12PM
MARTINSTOWN VILLAGE HALL

Contact Lizzie at 07949 639011 for further details

Come and have some fun!

We are pleased to announce that Martinstown Baby & Toddler Group is now back up and running! We are a friendly and local group operating every Monday (10-12) at Martinstown Village hall where we will be offering arts & crafts, song time & have plenty of toys to keep your little ones occupied. We also offer healthy snacks for the children & refreshments for the grownups. Our fee is only £2 for families with no additional fee for extra children.

We are really excited to be up and running again & look forward to seeing you all there,

BIG thank you to waste watch for their amazing sponsorship & to everyone in the village for your donations & support in helping to make this project happen again.

We are also looking for any volunteers who would like to be involved in this fantastic local group. If you are able to donate some time every now and again or would like more information please contact Lizzie on 07949 639011.

You can also find us on Facebook!

Otter Spotted in Martinstown?

I have recently heard of a sighting of an otter in Martinstown earlier this year, in April. The location of the sighting was the river bank close to Turnpike Cottage on the Weymouth Road. The “otter spotter” was local naturalist who clearly identified it as an otter and not a stoat or weasel.

Has anyone else in the Valley had a similar sighting?

It would be great to think that otters have returned to our river after decades of absence.

Martin Reeves
On Monday 17th October we had a very interesting, informative and wide-ranging presentation by Charlie Wheeler, Warden of the Fleet, on ‘Chesil Bank and the Fleet as a Nature Reserve’. Charlie, who has recently taken over as Warden, spends three days per week at the Swannery and two at the Fleet.

The Fleet is an eight mile long, saline lagoon and is the largest in the British Isles. The lagoon and Chesil Beach is a unique area with a number of national and international environmental designations. Chesil Beach was formed during the last ice age and is made up of shingle and, as the stones are pushed by the tide from west to east, with the larger ones being pushed further, the size of the shingle indicates roughly how far you are along the Beach.

Charlie showed us a wonderful selection of photographs of vegetation and wildlife. The vegetation is more prolific on the Fleet side of Chesil Beach as there is better protection there from wind and storms from the sea. Sadly, the storms of February 2014, when the sea overtopped the crest of the Beach, a lot of vegetation was lost and is only now very slowly recovering. From May to September parts of the Beach are fenced off to allow bird species such as Little Terns to breed undisturbed and to protect the fragile vegetation.

The Fleet is a major habitat of eel grass – the principal source of food for the huge colony of swans for which the Fleet is famous.

By the time you read this we will have had our November social evening with Tim Laycock and singers, which should have been extremely enjoyable.

We have no events in December, so our next presentation will be on Monday 16th January 2017 when Joy Wallis will be giving a talk ‘Wildlife in your Garden’ in Martinstown Village Hall at 8pm.

On Thursday 26th January, Valley Club members are invited to a lunch at Poundbury Gardens. The cost of the meal, including wine or soft drink, is £16.25 per head. Following the lunch, you will be allowed 25% discount off any purchases you make on the day. We need a minimum of 12 people for it to go ahead, so please contact Eileen (01305 889584) by Monday 9th January if you wish to come.

Finally, on behalf of the Valley Club committee, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Pat Willets - Tel: 889597
Martinstown Women’s Institute

Once again we all enjoyed hearing more of Chris Shaw’s travels at our meeting in November. She told us about the diverse animals she saw while being paddled along a creek in the Amazon rainforest – 6’ otters, howler monkeys, sloths, cayman and hummingbirds. Then on to the Galapagos Islands to snorkel amongst sea lions, turtles, marine iguanas and sharks and, of course, to see the famous blue footed booby bird. We look forward to hearing about her next adventure.

Our Christmas Party will be on Wednesday 14th December when we will be entertained by the JAMPLS singers. Please remember to bring a £5 gift for the bran tub.

We meet again on Wednesday 11th January 2017 when we will be discussing the proposed resolutions to be voted on at the National Federation Annual meeting.

Martinstown WI would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and we hope that more ladies will come and join us in 2017.

Angela Barrett - Secretary

COMPTON VALENCE SNOW DROPS
VILLAGE HALL LUNCHES and TEAS

Monday 30th Jan - Friday 10th Feb 2017

COME and WALK/DRIVE through our beautiful village and see the stunning white drifts of snowdrops. (The village hall is below the church)

OPEN (WEATHER PERMITTING):
10.30am -3.30 pm Daily

Please ring Tessa Russell Tel: 01308 492227 or email: tessa@cvfarms.co.uk to book so we can cater accordingly. Pre booked guests will take priority as the hall is small. In bad/icy weather we may not be open. Please be considerate of our village/verges etc when parking or ring us to discuss your needs so we can advise you where to go. We look forward to seeing you.

The true meaning of Christmas

Journey to the stable is an interactive experience helping to explain the true meaning of Christmas. This is ideal for adults and children alike. The journey takes 20 – 30 minutes. There are seven stations focusing on a person or a part of the Christmas story with readings and reflections. At each there is a small activity or object for you to take away, so you leave with a bag of reflections and goodies.

Open at the United Church Dorchester Sat 3rd Dec and Thurs 8th – Sat 10th Dec 11-3pm (except Fri 9th 11-2pm).

In the busyness of all the Christmas shopping, writing the cards and icing the cake take a few minutes to be still and reflect on what Christmas is all about.
The next PTFA meeting will be in January (date to be confirmed) when we will be making plans for spring term fundraising, including the very popular chocolate bingo. Look out for the date in the school newsletter. All new and old faces are most welcome.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Christmas Card Project. It was lovely to be able to do this in school this year and all the children were extremely enthusiastic about being asked to draw a Christmas picture in the middle of October!! There were lots of brilliant works of art and I’m sure the children were very proud to see their picture made into a Christmas Card. Apologies again for how difficult and confusing ordering became this year. Unfortunately, this was down to a problem with the company’s online ordering system which was ironically supposed to make everything much more straightforward than in previous years!!!

This month the children will be enjoying a Christmas Disco, which we hope will be as popular as the one we arranged back in February. They will then be looking forward to a delicious Christmas dinner served by the PTFA and then a visit from Santa on the last day of term, with a present for each of the children.

Finally, on behalf of the PTFA, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Beverley Smith - Chairperson
office@winterbournevalley.dorset.sch.uk

Dear Parish magazine readers...

I would just like to introduce PC 1316 Jim Long who is now the new Rural Neighbourhood Police Officer.

He will be looking after Rural West and Rural East of Dorchester so does have a large area to cover but does hope to get out and about to meet you all at some time or another.

Jim used to be the Dorchester Town Neighbourhood Police Officer so is new to the role just the area and he is also our Wildlife Officer so fits in nicely with him being out and about in the rural villages.

You still have myself PCSO 5410 Sarah Pilcher and PCSO 6534 Jane Goodwin along with our Neighbourhood Sergeant 1824 Ged Want for the foreseeable but we do have 3 new PCSOs starting their training beginning of December. Some of these will take the place of PCSOs moving on to become PCs so there may be a re-shuffle in areas in the New year but for now please don’t hesitate to contact us above should you need any help or advice regarding Police matters.

PCS0 5410 Sarah Pilcher

Winterborne St Martin Parish Council

An election for the two vacancies on the parish council was held in October. Two candidates, Michael Hall and Martin Usherwood were elected to the parish council.

The turnout of almost 34% was very high for a parish council election, especially on a date with no other elections taking place. It was very good to engage with so many of the community in this process and it is hoped this level of engagement can be built on.

All parish council meetings are open to the public and start with a democratic period where questions can be raised to the parish council. The next meeting is Monday 28 November at 7:30 in the parish office.

Parish council members are, Patrick Jeffery, Dave Read, Ann Priddle, Jon Walker, Anne Bennett, Michael Hall, Martin Usherwood and Debbie Wiltshire. Please contact any of us, or the clerk Stephen Slade, if you wish to raise anything.
Twenty-One Mileaters and two trusty dogs went to stay at the Falcon Hotel in Painswick for this year’s walking holiday and in my opinion, a grand time was had by all. We travelled up on Monday, 26 September and after signing in, settling in and possibly getting a round in, we were on our way to our first walk.

It proved a beauty, the weather was glorious - we dropped further down the valley then began to ascend the other side to the ridge. The views were amazing, made more stunning by the rich autumnal colours of the trees. Nestled here and there were houses, cottages and farms all built from the soft golden stone of the local area. In the distance, we could sometimes see glimpses of St Mary’s spire; the church was situated opposite our lodgings. It inspired us to march on, the thought of a tasty supper awaiting our return. We swooped down the valley past a wonderful old mill and then back up into the village again, on our way up, we saw a little group of “Thelwell” type ponies that demanded we talk and pet them! It was a lovely way to begin our holiday, Nick Priddle had put in much hard work prior to our visit, planning our walks, so with enthusiasm high, the group looked forward to the next two treats he had in store for us - we were not disappointed.

The next day most of the group set out on the longest walk of the three days. A challenging walk to the Painswick Beacon high above the valley. Once again, the Mileaters were thrilled by the picturesque scenery, everywhere smelt sweet and earthy after a light sprinkling of rain that did little to deter the intrepid walkers. The iron age fort at the top was declared both fascinating and strange as it had many more ramparts than was usual and weidly a golf course ran through it. It was, I think, given the award for being the best walk of the three, although to quote Mr Kipling, they were all “exceedingly good”. The only sadness of the day being that the pub Nick had planned for us to visit on the way back was closed for refurbishment and no pint was to be had until our return to the Falcon.

Our last walk was to lead us to a long a disused canal, we drove to our starting point high in the Gloucestershire countryside and parked up in a large layby. We walked through fields, mostly cropped, accompanied by the sound of birds and in the distance the humming of farm machines rushing to take the last of the wheat and the hay before the weather turned. To reach the canal path, we had to drop through quite an ancient woodland, we saw some interesting bracket fungi and earth balls but nothing edible. Once on flat ground, we were able to step out with sure footed determination. It was interesting to see the dry, overgrown workings of the canal but also rather sad imagining them teeming with life and industry in times gone by and now so empty.

It was such a temperate day, we decided to eat lunch in the beer garden, a happy raucous time was had by all. Our two, four legged friends were generally good. Ollie did decide to follow another walking group at one point causing a bit of consternation while Minnie more loyal to her own pack always stayed very close especially after rolling in some fox scat - why couldn’t she be more like Ollie?

Our last night was very convivial, everyone had a hearty supper, we wrote and recited limericks, some, well maybe many, not to be repeated in polite company and we toasted and thanked our chief organiser and chairman, Nick Priddle for his sterling work and excellent leadership and our accommodation organisers Judy, Andy, Lynne and Roger for all their efforts. We had a very jolly evening and so our trip to the Cotswolds ended.

May I remind all Mileaters that our twenty-fifth AGM and social is 6th January, and may I also wish you all and all readers of the Valley & Valence a content and joyful Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.
On a dank November morning in 1685 a weary horse and cart struggled over the hill from Weymouth with an unusual load. Arriving at the corner of the Martinstown village street and the road to Dorchester, they stopped, and the ragged carters unloaded part of their cargo. First there was a stout pole, sharpened at one end. This they drove into a convenient bank of earth, cursing the flints which got in the way. Next they scrabbled among the filthy and stinking sacks in the cart, to choose a suitable object.

Their selection was a quarter of a carcase, which had been boiled and tarred to keep it preserved. The men used six-inch iron nails to fix the revolting object to the post, stood back to judge their work, and then with renewed curses forced the old horse into action again towards their next stop at Puddletown.

The object was a quarter of the body of a man with a single limb hanging down. He had been one of twelve rebels hung drawn and quartered on Greenhill at Weymouth, under the sentence meted out by the fearsome Judge Jeffreys. The distribution of parts seems to have been decided by the High Sheriff of the County, with most being displayed in Weymouth, but a number were reserved for the villages – perhaps those where it was judged that there were ill-disposed inhabitants. The gruesome exhibits were kept in place for at least a year.

The court records have not survived, and later accounts were written by those sympathetic to the rebels, but the best estimates seem to agree that in Dorchester nearly 300 men were sentenced to death in just over a week. Of these, 74 were executed in Poole, Dorchester, Weymouth and Lyme Regis. About 175 had their sentence commuted to transportation to the West Indies – in effect to slavery – and some were pardoned when bribes were exchanged. Similar results were achieved in the other Assize towns such as Exeter, Taunton and Wells.

The Monmouth Rebellion and particularly its aftermath had a profound effect on the West Country. Many of the rebels were unemployed clothworkers, and their participation in the army of Monmouth had been more of an economic and social protest than any special religious or political issue. Nonconformity had played its part, with a deep fear of the imposition of Roman Catholicism by the Catholic King James II, and support for Parliament in the Civil War had been strong – but Monmouth had struck a spark which ignited a smouldering social resentment. Very few gentry had supported Monmouth, though it was the upper classes who three years later overthrew James II in the Glorious Revolution to establish a parliamentary government and a Protestant Succession which last to this day.
Martinstown Cricket Club – Chairman’s Report – 2016 season

2016 proved to be another good season in all areas for the club. Our teams acquitted themselves well in their respective leagues, our membership continued to grow and we reaped the benefit of our ongoing investment in coaching and ground facilities. We continue to produce a strong pipeline of young players through the junior coaching programme.

The first team completed another challenging season in the premier division, finishing a very respectable mid table. Ably led by one of the league’s top scoring batsman, the team presented as a well drilled cohesive unit with complements on their sporting attitude to competitors, officials and the game.

Equally our second team fielded competitive teams on a regular basis, providing a conduit for young players to progress and gain senior experience. The team ended the season in a creditable mid table position. The club also fielded teams for evening and Sunday fixtures. Which culminated in a successful tour to Sussex – despite some inclement weather!

The junior section, now the largest in West Dorset, fielded seven league teams across all ages and saw the launch of a Cricketing “Academy.” Uptake of the summer camp programme once again proved popular. None of this would be possible without the enduring support of our managers, coaches, ground staff and of course parents. Out of season training continues with a winter programme now in place.

The season saw a number of non playing initiatives undertaken. We gained a licence enabling us to provide a club bar which proved popular. At the same time we received planning approval for a clubhouse extension that will give us additional kitchen and toilet facilities. A commencement date for the work is yet to be decided. Our thanks go to the ground staff who work tirelessly to provide us with some of the best wickets in the area.

The club’s financial status remains robust, with income continuing to exceed expenditure, enabling us to further bolster our reserves. Overall the club enjoyed tremendous financial support from sponsors, players, parents and non playing members.

Once again we would like to thank those companies and individuals who provide such valuable support both financially and in kind.

We look forward to the forthcoming 2017 season.

David Gargrave - Chairman

Sarah Pilcher (PCS0 5410) will be at:
The Brewers Arms, Martinstown 2pm - 2.30pm (from Wed 10th Feb)
Second Wednesday of every month in 2016
If you cannot make it but would like to talk then please contact me on - 101 or Dorchester-rural-snt@dorset.pnn.police.uk
Visits are subject to operational commitments.

Dorchester Rural West Neighbourhood Police Team
NPT Sgt 1824 Ged Want • NPT PC 1316 Jim Long
NPT PCSO 5410 Sarah Pilcher • NPT PCSO 6534 Jane Goodwin
Contact us via ‘101’ or Dorchester-rural-snt@dorset.pnn.police.uk
Past and Forthcoming Events in Martinstown

One Sunday morning in early November the Village Hall was a scene of intense activity. From 9.00 onwards, visitors arrived carrying bags and boxes full to the brim with Christmas goodies galore.

In no time at all, the hall was transformed into the annual Marie Curie Christmas Fair where a diversity of highly skilled crafts would be on sale.

The doors were opened at 10 o’clock to admit a steady stream of visitors throughout the day, all eager to purchase that unusual Christmas present or simply to browse. In addition to the craft fair a raffle was in progress, many of the prizes having been donated by the generous stallholders. Then, when gifts or cards were bought, it was time for a scrumptious piece of home-made cake (kindly donated by the stalwart ladies of the W.I), washed down with a refreshing cup of tea or coffee.

Meanwhile, a trusty team of W.I tea ladies beavered away, making sure that there was a constant supply of delicious refreshments including soup and sandwiches for the stallholders.

At the end of the day when all the monies were gathered in, the princely sum of nearly £600 had been raised for this fantastic charity. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who attended this worthwhile event.

Now a date for your diary!

On Sunday 11 December at 7.30pm, Lili La Scala presents “Songs to Make You Smile”. Lili La Scala is a ‘one-of-a-kind’ performer with a cascade of vintage glamour and charm in her arsenal. It’s easy to see why the little diva with the big voice – nicknamed the Songbird of Trafalgar Square - has become the worldwide sell-out favourite.

Lili’s offering, the award-winning: Songs to Make You Smile, is an enthralling hour of war-time classics, show tunes and bright & breezy numbers from yesteryear. All bound to put a spring in your step.

Her huge voice and equally big personality won’t fail to leave you cheered.

An Artsreach production not to be missed!

FILM NIGHT at the BREWERS ARMS
NEW SEASON’S PROGRAMME 2017

Third Thursday of each month (except December)

19th January  The Pink Panther – Peter Sellars and David Niven
16th February  Bell Book and Candle – James Stewart and Kim Novak
16th March  High Society – Grace Kelly and Bing Crosby
13th April  The Thomas Crown Affair – Steve McQueen and Faye Dunnaway
Abbotsbury and Portesham Branch

At the Branch Committee Meeting in October, Mrs. Pat Crockett gave notice of her intention to resign as Honorary Branch Secretary, with effect from the A.G.M. on 17 November. She also concludes her Poppy Appeal Organiser role next year, so that a replacement for that position will be needed to start w.e.f. 1.10.17. Neither position has been potentially filled at the time of writing and volunteers are therefore sought. Contact the Chairman on 01305 871881 if you are interested – non-members may apply.

The total amount raised from all sources for the Appeal Year up to 20 October was £4293.52.

Rob Clarke gave an interesting account of the art of paper-making in the same month to an appreciative but small audience.

The proposed Christmas shopping trip to Winchester had been cancelled due to low numbers.

Members and friends travel to Poole Lighthouse Concert Hall on 11 December to see the last stop on a nationwide tour of the Royal Air Force Band. [Booking now closed]

Among forthcoming events and ideas being considered for 2017 are: an informal private dinner function at ‘The Sugar Loaf Café’, Easton, Portland; shooting at the Clay Pigeon, Warden Hill; a sea angling trip by boat from West Bay Harbour; a visit to the Watercress Railway workshops, Hampshire, to see maintenance being carried out with an in depth explanation of the workings of the motive power units; Annual Lunch, Eype in March. If any of the events appeals to you, get in touch with me in order that we have an early indication of your interests. Non-Members can be included at just £3 per head per event.

Meanwhile Happy Christmas to all our readers and a prosperous New Year!

Des Baker – Social Fund Chairman • Tel: 01305 267617
or email: aveswood@sky.com

“Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.” Winston Churchill

Martinstown Scout Group
Indoor and outdoor activities for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Meeting Mondays 5.30pm - 6.30pm (Beavers), 6.15pm - 7.30pm (Cubs & Scouts)
• Martinstown Village Hall • For more information call SUE GOWER - Cub Leader on 01305 889388 or 07800 537722 • Adult helpers sought (no previous experience necessary).
Martinstown Panto has not disappeared and this is a show with a difference!

This is a Panto from first rehearsal to final performance in three consecutive weekends.

So, if you have ever had that desire to ‘tread the boards’ and you can donate your time totally to the following important dates then come along to register your interest on Sunday 5th February 2017 in Martinstown Village Hall from 2pm - 6pm. Here names, addresses will be noted and £5 (£10 for families) will be asked for: £5 is needed to cover the cost of printing the scripts. At this point you can say whether you want a large, medium or small part or help back stage. If however, you are unable to come to the Hall you can leave all your details in an envelope (name, address, phone number) and cash at the Village Shop. You will then be contacted.

Parts will be allocated and then the fun begins.

Friday 17th Feb at 6.30pm - will be meet the cast evening.
Saturday 18th Feb - a full day of rehearsal.
Sunday 19th Feb - a full day of rehearsal.
Saturday 25th Feb - a full day of rehearsal.
Sunday 26th Feb - a full day of rehearsal.
Friday 3rd March - a full day of rehearsal followed by a Dress rehearsal at 6pm.
Saturday 4th March - Matinee performance followed by our final evening show.

During the intervening days it is hoped that you will make time to familiarise yourself with your part. Of course it will not be expected that you will be word perfect. The audience will of course be participating loudly and will not be surprised to see the flutter of scripts.

Teas and coffee will be provided during rehearsals but bring along your packed lunch.

This is our Community Panto and we are going to have fun so come along and join us!!

Young people in sport in the village (a story of one)!

Many of the children and young people in Martinstown we know compete in a range of sporting events from school friendlies to county, regional and national events! From cricket, football, swimming, triathlons, biathlons to list a few! Well done to all and keep going!

Our son Shem Martin (13yrs) has been part of a range of sports since about the age of 8yrs, from swimming, running, shooting, waterpolo competing at local and national levels.

He has more recently trained with and competed for Dorset Pentathletes, earlier this year he combined his sports in a national competition and qualified for a World Triathlete (continuous shoot; swim; run) to represent Great Britain at Sarasota, USA on 22nd October 2016. So amongst many children and young people from around the world he competed in the boys 15yrs and under, along with many athletes representing GB in different age groups.

On a very hot day and in a lake that no one could guarantee that there weren’t any alligators in - flags flying high and a lovely atmosphere, he came 8th but also got team gold for GB as there were 3 boys from GB whose scores enabled them to achieve this.

A lovely medal...a fabulous memory and...a great achievement.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>11th</td>
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<td>Sunday 16:00</td>
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<td>Compton Valence</td>
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<td>‘Midnight’ Holy Communion</td>
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Looking forward to seeing you!
Children’s Activities and Services for Christmas
Winterbourne Parish

3rd December
Christmas Tree Festival
St Mary’s Church, Winterbourne Abbas
Messy Church creating Christmas trees and decorations. Free lunch and storytelling.

4th December
Christingle Service
St Martin’s Church, Martinstown
Celebrate hope. Make children’s voices heard. We would love you to join us at our Christingle so we can help to support vulnerable children.

24th December
Crib Services
3pm—Winterbourne Abbas Church
4pm—Martinstown Church
The Christmas story retold for children of all ages. How many Marys, angels, shepherds and kings can we get in one church?

Looking forward to seeing you!
### Recycling & Rubbish Collection Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st (Thursday) - rubbish and food</td>
<td>5th (Friday) - recycling and food</td>
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<td>8th (Thursday) - recycling and food</td>
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<td>15th (Thursday) - rubbish and food</td>
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<td>22nd (Thursday) - recycling and food</td>
<td>26th (Thursday) - rubbish and food</td>
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<td>30th (Friday) - rubbish and food</td>
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### GARDEN WASTE Collection Dates

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<tr>
<th>December 2016</th>
<th>January 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>2nd, 16th and 30th (Friday) - garden waste</td>
<td>13th, 27th (Friday) - garden waste</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS

**6th & 20th December 2016 & 3rd, 17th & 31st January 2017**

Martinstown Village Hall
14.25 - 15.05

### 100 CLUB DRAW

Martinstown October 2016

- £25 Ann Moorcroft
- £10 Alison Crawford
- £5 Cedric Moorcroft

### COFFEE MORNING

Manor Grove Communal Hall • EVERY THURSDAY • 10.30am - 12.00

Entrance: 50p to include cake and biscuits • ALL WELCOME

### Upstairs Downstairs Interiors Limited

- **Bespoke Curtain Making**
- **Loose Covers**
- **Upholstery**
- **All Fabrics**
- **Cushions**

- **Furniture + Art**
- **Alterations**
- **Poles + Tracks**
- **Roman + Roller Blinds**
- **Window Seats etc**

**FREE ESTIMATES**

The Old School Rooms, Long Street, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3BS

Tel: 01935 813831 Mobile: 07956607314 Email:kittyoakshott@hotmail.co.uk
MINI PUZZLE

Across
1. Solemn promise
2. Insane
3. Notion
4. Single
5. Temporary provision of money
6. Consumed
7. Fabric
8. Woodland deity
9. Eggs
10. One time only
11. Lair
12. Morose
13. Biblical vessel
14. Jug

Down
1. Lubricant
2. Fuss
3. Beverage
4. Useful
5. Complain
6. Against
7. View as
8. Wear away
9. Pop
10. Assert
11. Military vehicle
12. At present
13. Hint
14. Make a mistake

Poppy Appeal 2016

Bob Wilkins on behalf of the Royal British Legion wishes to thank all those who took part in this year’s collection and to those who donated so generously. The total amount collected throughout the Winterborne Valley is £844.00, a sum which is much in access of last year’s total.

Thank you

Knit and Natter...

Every Friday at The Brewers Arms • 1.30pm - 3pm
Contact: Anne Bennett (01305 889613) for more details.

Proud to support KD-UK with a donation of £250 for every completed house sale with this advert.

Terms and conditions apply

Parker Property Consultants and Valuers
01305 340860 www.parkersproperty.com
- USEFUL CONTACT ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS -

**West Dorset General Hospital**  
Williams Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 2JY  
Tel: 01305 251150 • www.dch.org

**Dorset Police**  
Emergency: 999 • Non-emergency: 101  
www.dorset.police.uk

**Dorset Fire & Rescue Service**  
Emergency: 999 • Non-emergency: 01305 252600

**Dorset ‘Out of Hours’ Medical Service**  
Tel: 0845 600 1013

**Bus Timetables**  
Tel: First 0333 014 3490 • Web: www.firstgroup.com

**Train Timetables**  
Tel: South West Trains 08457 484950  
Web: www.southwesttrains.co.uk/SWTrains

**Electricity Emergencies**  
Tel: 08457 708090

**Gas Emergencies**  
Tel: 0800 111999

**Drains/Water Emergencies**  
Tel: 0845 7300600

**Flooding Enquiries**  
Local Flood Warden (S. Slade) Tel: 01305 889411  
Environmental Agency Tel: 0800 807060

**RSPCA West Dorset Branch**  
PO BOX 5460, Weymouth, DT3 6WH  
Tel: 01305 259672 • www.westdorsetrspca.org

**Age UK Dorchester**  
4 Prince of Wales Road, DORCHESTER DT1 1PW  
Tel: 01305 269444 • www.ageuk.org.uk

**Plaza Cinema**  
Trinity Street, Dorchester, DT1 1TT  
Tel: 01305 262488 • www.plazadorchester.com

**Dorchester Odeon Cinema**  
Filmline: 0871 22 44 007 • www.odeon.co.uk

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**This month’s advertisers’ phone numbers... at a glance!**

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<td>Coln Tracy Photographs</td>
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<td>Ivor Cerdall Electrician</td>
<td>John Stiles Painter/Decorator</td>
<td>01305 772096</td>
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<td>Lawrences Auctioneers</td>
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<td>Martinstown Village Stores</td>
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<td>Max Deller Gardening Services</td>
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<td>ME Howes Master Thatcher</td>
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<td>Poundbury Wealth Mngt</td>
<td>Tel: 01305 266866</td>
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<td>Port Decor Decorating</td>
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<td>SJ Christopher Accountants</td>
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<td>Sundial Landscapes</td>
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*Service stops and times are subject to change without notice.*

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**Notes:**
- All stops listed above are on all routes.
- Times are shown where the routes are expected to stop apart from Whitbourne Steepleton.
- All stops are served by First Group: Customer Service 0333 043 3490. Mon to Sat 07:00 to 19:00. Sun 09:00 to 17:00.

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**Additional Information:**
- New Saturday service included.
- Service from Saturday 29th Oct.
- Note: schedule subject to change without notice.

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**Contact Information:**
- FirstGroup Customer Service: 0333 043 3490.
- For all route changes, please contact FirstGroup Customer Service.
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ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS TO IMPROVERS WILL LOVE THIS COURSE!

GREAT NEWS for all our readers looking for something fun to do over the next few months! Our current class is full but we are now taking enquiries for our next part-time Art Class, which starts soon. The classes are held once a week for three hours.

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS TO IMPROVERS - JUST LIKE YOU! The course is designed to be fun for absolute beginners who have never picked up a brush before through to improvers.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDANCE
We adapt to each student's needs and give them all the guidance and help they need to develop their artistic skills. The curriculum is fun, comprehensive and interesting. Over the course we will explore four different media; pencil drawing & sketching, oil pastel painting and techniques, painting and blending with water colours and acrylics. Step by step tuition in the basic techniques and secrets needed to create beautiful pieces of art.

STILL LIFE TO LANDSCAPES
By the end of the course, students have created a minimum of 8 pieces of their very own original art they can enjoy forever, from simple still life and flower studies to beautiful countryside landscape scenes.

YOUNG AT HEART
This course is a brilliant way to learn new skills you will be able to enjoy forever. It is also a great way of meeting new friends and to have a fun experience you will always remember and cherish! It is open to adults of all ages.

MEET NEW FRIENDS,
LEARN NEW SKILLS
This part time course is over 3 months, so will give you plenty of time to master your new hobby.

LIMITED PLACES
To maintain a high standard to our classes and the tuition you will receive, classes are kept to small numbers – so places available are limited! We recommend that if you are interested you call us now for details.

For information on dates, course fees and bookings, call now on 01747 828 296

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