The Parish Magazine for
Winterborne St. Martin (Martinstown) • Winterbourne Abbas,
Winterbourne Steepleton • Compton Valence

The “hearts and flowers, choccies and champagne” Edition

FEBRUARY 2017

Winterborne Valley School
as it is today...

...and as it was in 1925.
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Park House has a dedicated team to provide residential care for up to 20 residents, with 20 single rooms, 19 with En-suite facilities. The home is small enough to offer a truly homely atmosphere and believes wholeheartedly in the motto “Home is where the heart is”.

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Tel: 01305 889499 or Mobile: 07813 196 958
Here in the shop we are always trying to think of new services we can offer you all to make life a little easier. So we have recently become an agent for dry cleaning, laundry, garment & shoe repairs; we have twice weekly collections.

Also we are keen to remind everyone we offer an ordering service for fruit & veg, bread, cream and other items. If requested one day we do our best to have ready within 2 days; so please do ask.

We look forward to seeing you soon.
Karen & Callum Barrett

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

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SUN 9.30am to 12.30pm

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featured in this issue...

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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 Ed Masterson ©2017.

EDITORIAL in VALLEY & VALENCE
It would be much appreciated if copy is supplied electronically as a text doc. (Microsoft Word etc.) with any accompanying images as JPEG files to the address below.

ALL COPY MUST REACH ME BY 15th (LATEST) OF THE PRECEDING MONTH in order to be included in that issue.

ADVERTISING
To advertise, please apply, giving your contact details & invoice address. Current rates & specifications enquiries and advertisement copy for each month’s issue to:

Graham Herbert, The Barnhouse, 1 Cowleaze, Martinstown, DT2 9TD
Tel: 01305 889786 or email: info@valleyandvalence.co.uk
Dear Friends

Happy New Year! I wonder if any of you still have your Christmas decorations up? In the church’s calendar we celebrate Candlemas on the 2nd February and there is a tradition that says that any decorations not taken down by 12th night should be left up until Candlemas Day, and then taken down.

I’m a 12th night person myself. It’s usually a bit of a relief to get the house back to normal, to vacuum up all the pine needles and feel less cluttered. It brings a kind of newness with it like the New Year itself. But the one thing I miss about the taking down of the decorations is the lights. The pretty warm glow of the Christmas tree lights and the comforting flicker of candles for me really cheer up dull winter’s days and give a warm cosy feeling to winter’s nights. I really miss them.

Candles have a lot going for them, giving a soft warm glow, but for Christians of course our understanding of ‘the light’ is far deeper than the aesthetic appeal – for us this beautiful light, this comforting light symbolises for us the light of Christ.

Candlemas is so called because on this day, before electric light, people brought their candles to church to be blessed, but it also commemorates the ritual purification of Mary 40 days after the birth of Jesus and the day that marks the presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. St Luke’s Gospel tells us that Anna and Simeon met Jesus and that Simeon held the baby Jesus in his arms and called him ‘a Light to the World’.

The metaphor of light is a strong one. Think of the many important lights we couldn’t do without, such as a lighthouse to protect ships and warning lights for something that is going wrong. And we use lights to enable us to see when it’s dark, making us feel safe.

When we allow the light of Christ to enter into our lives we know that He will always be there. The darkness of our lives will never overcome his special light and as we grow in faith we shine as a light into other people’s lives on Jesus’ behalf. So on 2nd February we have a good excuse to light a candle and display it in the window as a symbol of Christ’s light - the light of the whole world.

Yours in Christ
Jean Saddington - Team Vicar
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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY - 4th BEFORE LENT
10.00 Holy Communion Winterbourne Abbas
11.00 Holy Communion Martinstown

SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY - 3rd BEFORE LENT
08.00 Holy Communion (BCP) Martinstown
09.30 Holy Communion Compton Valence
11.00 Holy Communion Winterbourne Steepleton

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY - 2nd BEFORE LENT
10.00 Holy Communion Winterbourne Abbas
11.00 Holy Communion Martinstown
18.00 Taizé Winterbourne Steepleton

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY - NEXT BEFORE LENT
11.00 Holy Communion Martinstown
Working towards Peace and healing the Planet

On the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm a few of us come together and sit in silence for 20 minutes focusing on an aspect of peace and healing of the planet. We bring the silence to an end by listening to readings taken from poems and spiritual literature. What we have in common is a sense of the spiritual and its power to heal. We come to that place in various different ways—mine is through Christianity. We are joined, in spirit, by people across the northern hemisphere.

This month we meet on 2nd February. We are focusing on the light that is present, and the healing and growth that is taking place right in front of us, although we are not always aware of it. This growth is like the seeds and bulbs in the ground that are, in these dark and cold days, beginning their journey into bloom.

Please come along and bring your choice of readings.

Jo Lacy-Smith 01305 889476

A presentation describing aspects of history and politics in this emerging nation.
An ‘on the ground’ description of providing emergency anaesthesia and surgery to victims of ongoing conflict

Dr Colin Berry
Consultant Anaesthetist

Martinstown Village Hall
Friday Feb 3rd at 1900

Entrance Free Donations to International Red Cross

Dorchester Choral Society
Registered Charity No. 265911

Saturday 25 February 2017 11.00am - 6.00pm
United Church, 49 Charles St., Dorchester DT1 1EE

Come and Sing
St Matthew Passion
JS Bach

Director of Music Colin Howard

Come and Sing this famous choral masterpiece with the Dorchester Choral Society.

Conductor & singer, Colin Howard, will guide us through many of the great choruses and chorales, with a performance of excerpts from the work for family and friends.

Application form and details are available from our website: www.dorchesterchoralsociety.org
or contact Christine Pfaff on christinepfaff@btinternet.com

Cost: £15 in advance by cheque (£7.50 for students or those on DWP means tested benefits)

Timetable for the Day
10.30-11.00 Registration 13.45-16.45 Rehearsal
11.00-12.30 Rehearsal 15.45-18.30 Tea
12.30-13.45 Lunch 16.30-18.00 Performance

www.dorchesterchoralsociety.org.uk
HUGE THANKYOU

Gill, Jinny, Lorna, Colleen, Roz and Jane would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who supported their Christmas fundraising event in November, raising £90.00 for their chosen three charities - Macmillan Cancer Support, Cancer Research and Together for Short Lives.

We all had a lovely evening and really appreciated everyone’s generosity, making the evening such a success all round!

Thank you!, Gill McCourtie

Dates for your diary:
Fundraising events for Winterbourne Abbas Church
18th March 2:00pm Jumble sale at Martinstown Village Hall
8th April 7:30pm Quiz night at Martinstown Village Hall
For all enquiries please contact Joy Parsons on 01305 889611

Charity Chamber Music Concert
Jurassic Strings (a quintet of local professional musicians) will perform a programme of music including works by Handel, Mozart, Vivaldi, Puccini and Brahms
Sunday 5th March at 7.30 pm at Bridehead, Littlebredy, DT2 9JA
In aid of Chesil Sailability and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Benevolent Fund.

Space in the auditorium is limited, so admission is by prior booking only. Further details and booking forms may be obtained from:
pennyjtweed@gmail.com

On the 18th February at 10am at St. Mary’s Church, Winterbourne Abbas we are celebrating the love of God through Messy Church. Please do come along and have lots of fun, listening to stories and sharing lunch together. We will finish at 1pm. It would be helpful, but not essential to let me know if you are coming so we know how many to cater for. Jo Lacy-Smith (01305 889476).
See you there.
The next PTFA meeting will be Thursday 2nd February at 7pm at school, when we will be making plans for spring and summer term fundraising; chocolate bingo, fun run, duck race & summer fayre. If you would like to be involved at helping at these events, have ideas for fundraising, or simply want to meet other parents, please do come along. All new faces are always welcome.

Some of the money from last year’s fundraising has been spent on new playground equipment for the children. This has all been ordered and should be arriving at school very soon.

Thank you to everyone for their support of the Christmas Disco. The children all seemed to have a good time. We hope to organise another one towards the end of the Summer Term as a way of saying farewell to our year 4 children.

Date for your diary...

**CHOCOLATE BINGO**

at Martinstown Village Hall  
Friday 31st March • 5pm

_This is a great fun event for all the family with lots of chocolatey prizes._

Donations of Easter Eggs and other chocolates are needed for the raffle and bingo so please think about us when you are buying your Easter Eggs (which are in the shops earlier than ever) and pop an extra one in your basket. These can be brought to school nearer the time but more details will come out via book bags after half term.

Many thanks for your continued support of PTFA events. We hope to have a bumper year of fundraising.

_Beverley Smith - Chairperson_  
office@winterbournevalley.dorset.sch.uk

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**Dorset Mid-week group**

I walk up on the ridgeway regularly with my dog. Over the last 6 years I’ve seen a section of the sea wall being turned from a pile of stones to a work of art.

I appreciate there are many in the parish who cannot get up there to see it, so the link below takes you to the home site of the volunteer group that has crawled along and reinstated our parish boundary up there. I’m sure they could probably use some new volunteers.

_Anne Bennett - www.eucan.org.uk/uk/dorset/dorset-mid-week-group/
The first task of the last meeting of 2016 was to elect a Vice-Chairman and Debbie Wiltshire was nominated and the proposal accepted without any objections. After this the Chairman introduced Graham Herbert and asked him to explain his proposal for a new **village website** which would include an area of content for Parish Council matters. The layout would enable us to electronically publish all aspects of our business including agenda, minutes, financial matters, codes of conduct and all statutory items that we have to do under the transparency agenda of central government. We approved the proposed cost, appointed a group led by Michael Hall to liaise with Graham to develop our part of the site and hope to see the website go live in February 2017.

The precept to be set for next year was discussed and Council felt that an increase after 4-5 years of no change was now needed. All Councils face devolvement of services to them but how much money they will receive to pay for them is not clear. We need to plan for the worst scenario and decision will be made shortly. Members wanted time to think what this would mean for each house per week depending on % increase thought necessary.

**The meeting closed at 9.43, the next meeting is on 23rd January 2017**

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**INFORMATION ON INCREASED A-LINE TAXI SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE**

On behalf of the Winterbourne Valley Transport Group I am writing to advise you that, following negotiations, the taxi company, A-Line, has set up an additional taxi shuttle bus service on a Wednesday on exactly the same lines and times as the existing Monday and Friday services.

The service runs twice a day leaving the A-Line office in Trinity Street Dorchester at 10.00am and 13.00pm stopping at Mallards Green, Manor Grove and Martinstown Village Shop. It leaves the village shop at 10.15am for the journey to the A-Line Office in Dorchester in the morning and again from the village shop at 13.15pm in the afternoon.

If you wish to use any part of these services please telephone A-Line to book a place on 01305 264747.

Full details of the services are available at several points in the village including the village shop.

**This new Wednesday service is on a TRIAL BASIS in the first instance until the END of FEBRUARY 2017 when it will be reviewed by A-Line.**

**It really is a case of USE IT OR LOSE IT!**

We are continuing to seek improvement in the existing bus service.

**Margaret Jeffery**

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**Fry Brother’s Charity Accommodation – Portesham** (Charity No 284669)

Fry Brothers’ Charity own, manage and let a number of 1 and 2 bedroom bungalows in Portesham, West Dorset for retired agricultural workers and their spouses, or those associated with the industry. We would like to hear from anyone who wishes to be considered for a tenancy.

For more information please call Jill Davis, Secretary, on 01305 781917 or email: frybrotherscharity@gmx.co.uk
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<th><strong>MONDAY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Table Tennis</strong></td>
<td>2.30pm - 3.30pm</td>
<td>Contact: Margaret Hearing - Tel: 01305 889346</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beavers, Cubs &amp; Scouts</strong></td>
<td>5.30pm - 7.30pm</td>
<td>Contact: Sue Gower - Tel: 01305 889388</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Valley Club</strong></td>
<td>7.30pm - 10.00pm</td>
<td>Contact: Pat Willets - Tel: 01305 889597</td>
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<td><strong>(3rd Monday in month)</strong></td>
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<th><strong>TUESDAY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Botanical Art Group</strong></td>
<td>9.30am - 12.30pm</td>
<td>Contact: Geoff Roberts - Tel: 01305 815735</td>
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<td><strong>(term times only)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dance Group</strong></td>
<td>2.30pm - 4.30pm</td>
<td>Contact: Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Badminton</strong></td>
<td>7.30pm - 9.30pm</td>
<td>Contact: Trevor Elliot - Tel: 01305 267897</td>
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<th><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pilates</strong></td>
<td>9.30am - 10.30pm</td>
<td>Contact: Sammie McFarland - Tel: 07807 090013</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chair-based Exercise</strong></td>
<td>11.15am - 12.30pm</td>
<td>Contact: Suzanne Fellows-Joyce - Tel: 01308 426390</td>
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<td><strong>W.I.</strong></td>
<td>6.45pm - 9.00pm</td>
<td>Contact: Jan Griffiths - Tel: 01305 889738</td>
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<td><strong>(2nd Wednesday in month)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beginners Dance</strong></td>
<td>8.00pm - 10.00pm</td>
<td>Contact: Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248</td>
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<th><strong>THURSDAY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Art Group</strong></td>
<td>10.30pm - 12.30pm</td>
<td>Contact: Betty Hoddinott - Tel: 01305 262217</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dance Group</strong></td>
<td>8.00pm - 10.00pm</td>
<td>Contact: Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248</td>
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<th><strong>FRIDAY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Keep Fit Class</strong></td>
<td>10.15am - 11.30am</td>
<td>Contact: Suzanne Fellows-Joyce - Tel: 01308 426390</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bingo</strong></td>
<td>7.00pm - 9.30pm</td>
<td>Contact: Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(Every other Friday)</strong></td>
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Chairperson: Jane Jones – Tel: 01305 889202
Bookings: Ann Matthews – Tel: 889248 or email: ronann.matthews@btinternet.com
I hope 2017 will be a happy and healthy year for you all.

We have no meeting in February, so our next event will be our AGM on Monday March 20th at 7.40pm in Martinstown Village Hall. Subscriptions will be due on that evening, which will be £7 per person. After the AGM, at 8.00pm, Dr. Peter Down will give a presentation on the "Past, Present & Future of Dorset County Museum". There are exciting plans for the Museum so do come along and find out what will be happening.

Guests are very welcome to attend at a cost of £3 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

Future dates for your diary:

Mon 3rd April  - Gold Club discount evening. Meet at Poundbury Garden Centre at 6.45pm.

Mon 15th May  - Presentation by Ian Williamson on “Trekking in Nepal”.

Wed 21st June  - Joint Valley Club & W.I. – outing to Mottisfont (NT) and Romsey.

Pat Willetts - Tel. 889597

FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB 2017 DATES:

All are very welcome to our monthly Community Lunches in the Village Hall on the first Friday of each month, except for April (Lent Lunches each Friday until Easter) and December (2nd Friday).

3rd Feb, 3rd Mar [NB this will be a Lent Lunch menu], 5th May, 2nd June, 7th July, 4th Aug, 1st Sept, 6th Oct, 3rd Nov, 8th Dec [NB second Friday].

To book, please telephone Ced on 889438.

We are always pleased to hear from people who’d like to be involved in any way, from cooking to laying tables. Please contact Jan on 889738 if you’d like to be involved – we do enjoy ourselves as well as work!

MARTINSTOWN OPEN GARDENS 2017

Saturday & Sunday 17th and 18th June

The biannual open gardens weekend will be in mid June this year when gardens should be at their best. This year the funds raised will go to improving the children’s play area by the village hall.

A successful event depends on gardens being open.

Please consider allowing your garden to be open, the more open for visitors to wander round, the greater the chance of raising money for the play area refurbishment.
Ho, ho, ho!! Martinstown Baby & Toddler group had a fantastic Christmas party! The children all had fun with the various activities we had put on for them, making their own reindeer food, decorating biscuits, building their own star & playing pass the parcel!

The music was playing, party food had been eaten and who should pay us an unexpected visit? Father Christmas!!! Some of the children laughed, some cried but overall memories were made & fun was had!

Big thanks to Father Christmas for taking the time out to see the boys & girls. It was thoroughly appreciated! :). We are back open from the Christmas break so please join us at Martinstown village hall every Monday 10-12pm. We are always looking for volunteers to help run this group, if interested, please contact Lizzie on 07949639011

The Martinstown Village Community Panto

REMINDER - if you have a burning desire to have fun and take part in our Panto.

On Sunday 5th Feb, in Martinstown Village Hall from 2 till 6 please come along to register your interest. Here, names, addresses and £5 (to cover the cost of a script) will be taken. This is your opportunity to state what sort of part, large, medium, small or back stage, you would prefer. If you are unable to attend on that date you can leave your details, name, address, etc. plus cash at the village shop. Parts will then be allocated.

Rehearsals and performance will take place on the following dates:

Friday 17th Feb - meet the cast evening and receive your script at 6.30
Saturday 18th Feb - a full day’s rehearsal.
Sunday 19th Feb - a full day’s rehearsal.
Saturday 25th Feb - a full day’s rehearsal.
Sunday 26th Feb - a full day’s rehearsal.
(w e think a full days rehearsal will be 10 till 4)
Friday 3rd March - Dress rehearsal at 6.30pm
Saturday 4th March - Matinee followed by our final performance!

Tickets will be on sale from Ann Matthews on 889248
Adults - £6, Children - £4, Family (2 adults + 2 kids) - £15

So come along and join in the fun!
At our first meeting in 2017 we discussed the proposed resolutions to be voted on at the National Federation Annual Meeting to be held in June. Every resolution passed throughout the WI’s 101-year history has stemmed from a concern put forward by members and is an opportunity to use the influence of women to make a real difference on important issues.

On Wednesday 8th February we will be hearing from Martin Fielding on “The Experiences of a Vet”. This will be an Open Meeting and we welcome all visitors at 7.30 pm. (Entry £2).

Angela Barrett - Secretary

---

Ann Moorcroft

It is with sadness that I write this. Our village hall has lost its treasurer and the community has lost a special person in Ann Moorcroft.

Ann spent the past fifteen years or so working tirelessly as a very efficient and conscientious treasurer and committee member; working alongside three different chair persons - Ann Matthews, Vince and more recently myself. Nothing was ever too much trouble for her and her efforts went over and above what was expected of her. Always supported by Ced she worked on a myriad of “behind the scenes” tasks. Together they helped to organise every Friday Lunch Club event over the past five years: ran the fortnightly bingo evenings; assisted in every Artsreach event; and played a major role in organising and running our Open Gardens event. These were just to name some of the things Ann did. There are many other weekly tasks that are crucial to the running of the hall that Ann was involved with.

I first met Ann about ten years ago, during rehearsals for one of the pantomimes. It quickly became apparent that without her there would not have been the magnificent costumes. She spent months working with directors, measuring the cast, designing, making and sourcing all the garments; helping to create some memorable shows which raised a lot of money for the hall.

Ann never expected thanks for anything she did. She gave of her time willingly and always wanted what was best for the hall and those who used it. I am not alone in saying how much she was valued and how much she will be missed.

Jane Jones
Take a look at the...

NEW MARTINSTOWN WEBSITE

www.martinstown-news.co.uk

Notice Board • About the Village
Clubs & Societies News • Useful Information
Village Hall site • Parish Council site
Letters Page • Photo Gallery

Get involved - send us your stories, your info, your photos... anything Martinstown related.
Read about - the history, the events, the clubs & societies, the services and contacts...
in Martinstown (and just outside).

 email: info@martinstown-news.co.uk

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– 16 –
Abbotsbury and Portesham Branch

Many members, having travelled to the National Memorial Centre, Alrewas with us last year, contributed to an appeal to fund a Memorial to the County Regiments. They may like to know that the appeal has reached its target in so far as the cost of the sculptures is concerned, it now just remains to raise a little extra to pay for the work itself to be taken to the NMC and erected there on an appropriate base.

We are holding a private informal 3-course dinner at The Sugar Loaf Cafe, Easton, Portland, at 7 p.m. Thursday 23 February at £15.50 per head.

Our Annual Lunch takes place at the Highland End Leisure Centre, Eype, on Thursday 23 March Advance booking is essential for either of the above events – guests are welcome to join us (add £3 per head).

Six day ‘Heart of England’ cruise, River Severn 15-20 May arranged by Des Baker for the benefit of the Legion Poppy Appeal: one twin cabin has unexpectedly become available. If you are interested contact the writer for detailed information.

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

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Contact: Graham Herbert on 01305 889786 or email: info@valleyandvalence.co.uk for more information.
After the recent well supported 25th Anniversary AGM where some 42 founding and present members attended, 13 hardy souls and 3 canine friends dismissed the superstitions of Friday 13th and embarked upon the first walk of 2017, under Nick Priddle’s stewardship.

From Broadmayne we climbed steadily via Osmington Drove to reach the South Dorset Ridgeway above Sutton Poyntz. Fortunately here we turned east with the biting norwesterly now behind us (well, nearly) and were soon able to enjoy the views to the south from the ridge above the Osmington White Horse out over Weymouth Bay to Portland.

Some relief from the cold wind was enjoyed as we dropped past the site of “Pokes Well” of Roman origin, to the imposing Poxwell Manor dating from 1613 and the nearby 13th Century tithe barn.

Two more hills - some disagreement with our worthy leader as to what constituted a hill - and we were finally descending into Broadmayne for a well-earned repast at the friendly and efficient “Black Dog”.

The wind and the at times very sticky conditions made for a testing outing, but at least there were no cobwebs left afterwards.

For further information on the Mileaters please contact Nick Priddle on 01305-889189.

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**FILM NIGHT at the BREWERS ARMS**

Next screening - Thurs 16th February at 7.30:
**Bell, Book and Candle**
Starring James Stewart & Kim Novak
NEWS FROM THE SOUTH WINTERBOURNE COMMUNITY
FLOOD ACTION GROUP  Web site: https://sites.google.com/site/swcfag

We are glad to report that this has been an uneventful year for the stream despite some fairly heavy rain early on. During the year there were a number of “volunteer group activities” when removal of potential blockages and some general tidying up has taken place and we should offer a big vote of thanks to all of those who took part as this is an important activity if we are to maintain the clear flowing of the stream throughout the year.

Despite continued and failed attempts to get Highways England to deal with the A35 stretch of the stream the Winterbourne Abbas volunteers have taken it on themselves to undertake this work and it seems that this is really the only way to ensure the work is done annually. Sadly little progress has been made with the surface water drainage under the A35 trunk road. A large [non Highways England] drain was located opposite Hadley Lodge and this has been used to improve the drainage from this house and avoid the pump discharge across the pavement. However, there are now quite a few emergency pumps installed in Winterbourne Abbas and whilst these are welcome in an emergency they do not solve the problem of getting the surface water from the north to the south side of the road. Run off from the field behind the properties especially at the west end of the village is being discussed by locals with the local MP. SWCFAG will continue to press this matter with the various agencies.

We were disappointed that the DCC Highways work on the road between the two sharp bends west of Martinstown took so long and even then did not seem to have addressed the flooding on the northern bend. We are pursuing this and are told work is “under consideration” but if implemented would not need to involve another road closure.

The annual stream cleaning took place in November and the area from the A35 junction in Abbas to the Martinstown Cricket Field has been cleared by the contractor. Funding for this activity continues to be provided by the Parish Councils and relevant farmers.

Now well into the winter we need to remind everyone to keep an eye out for anything that might block the stream or any surface water drains or gulleys etc. as it’s important that they are all kept clear.

Just a reminder that sand bags are now stored in:

**Martinstown:** Immediately to east side of Parish Office.

**Steepleton:** To right hand side of the large cattle shed in Yuill Farms yard off the dairy access road.

**Abbas:** In Manor Farm. Enter the yard from the main road and turn sharp right - the store will be in the open machinery shed on your right adjacent to the road boundary wall.

They are available to anyone who needs them for flood protection and have been provided by WDCC who will replace them as and when needed.

Volunteer groups are again planned for 2017 and will be notified on the SWCFAG website.

We would welcome new members/volunteers. If you are interested please contact us by email: swcfag@gmail.com and we can add you to the circulation list for meetings and volunteer sessions.
Flying is such a usual activity today, but only two lifetimes ago nobody had gazed down upon the world from a powered heavier-than-air flying machine. In 1903 the Wright brothers in America made their first tentative forays into the air, and inspired further intrepid adventurers to their own experiments and initiatives. Two of these were Ernest and Ralph Channon, of Channons Motor Works at 6 High East Street Dorchester.

Experience of hand-building individual motor cars from 1902, using electricity generated by their own gas engine, was a great advantage in turning dream into reality. No doubt there was much shaking of heads and caustic comments among staff and customers in 1909 as time, money and skill were used to create a light steel aerodynamic framework strong enough to carry a pilot and engine into the air.

Ernest Channon seems to have been the prime mover in the enterprise, thought it was Ralph who is seated at the controls in the only picture surviving of the Channon aeroplane. The design was based on the early flying machines built by the American Wright brothers, and by 1909 considerable advances had already been made which do not seem to have influenced the Channons unduly. The two wings were fixed at the rear end of the fuselage frame, which projected some twenty feet forward. At the front end was a small pair of wings. The pilot sat over the lower of the two main wings, in front of the White-and-Popper six-cylinder engine and the “pusher” propeller. Skids were fitted beneath to assist take-off.

Construction took most of the summer. In November 1909 the many parts were transported to Maiden Castle, which must have been seen as an ideal place for a trial flight. After re-assembly, the crowd of workers and eager viewers waited for the grand event. The motor was started, the pilot adjusted the controls, the engine roared – and the plane did not move. Pushing and shoving helped to free the skids and eventually the plane was persuaded to move forward and with a final heave gathered enough speed to hop for a few yards before returning to Maiden Castle mud.

Further trials achieved little more success. Wheels were fitted to ease take-off and were designed to drop off to reduce weight. Landing does not appear to have roused much interest, but then the plane was hardly in the air.

The following year a fresh attempt was planned, but it happened that Ernest Channon was probably at the first International Aviation Meeting at Bournemouth when Sir Charles Rolls of Rolls-Royce crashed his aeroplane and was killed. Channon’s experiments with flying machines ceased – no doubt to the relief of the rest of the family and of the Company. A couple of years later they acquired the Dorset agency for Morris Motors, which they retained for sixty years. At the end of the 20th century the business closed, and the premises are now occupied by a wine-distributors.
Christmas in Martinstown...

Christmas began early on the last Saturday in November as 40 excited children made their way into the Church in anticipation of yet another annual Advent Craft day. A plethora of activities was awaiting them lead by a cheerful group of volunteers. It wasn’t too long before sticking, cutting and colouring was in full swing. At lunchtime this chattering group was walked up to the Brewers Arms where a delicious lunch of sausage and chips or pasta washed down with plenty of squash, was ready to be served. All this was made possible through the hospitality of the pub’s new owners Leanne and Ben. They are proving to be excellent replacements for our ‘fabulous 4’ – Micky, Sara, Chris and Ann-Marie who sadly left us in November.

This very successful day ended with prayers, carols and cakes and the children went home clutching festive goodies.

The next celebratory event was ‘Carols in the Brewers.’ The pub was packed and the singing was tumultuous! Mince pies and mulled wine was served in the interval. All very gratefully received. The singing, some tuneful, some tuneless was enhanced by the magnificent voice of Lilli la Scala who was due to entertain us later on.

Later an appreciative audience of 60 was treated to an evening of pure enjoyment as Lilli la Scala, accompanied by Tom, took us on a journey through an eclectic programme entitled ‘Songs to make us smile.’ Her repertoire included wartime classics, show tunes, bright and breezy numbers from yesteryear and a comic song about oysters.

Another fabulous evening of entertainment brought to us by courtesy of Artsreach. Unfortunately there will be no further Artsreach productions until early Summer. However, we do have our fun community Pantomime taking place on Saturday 4th March - Matinee at 2.30 followed by an evening performance at 7.30. Tickets are available from Ann Matthews.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.
**WHAT'S ON...** a selection of events taking place this month

**February 2017**

**Snowdrop Weekends** - 1 Feb 2017 to 28 Feb 2017  
*Forde Abbey and Gardens, West Dorset*  
Throughout February the 30 acres of award-winning gardens are carpeted in a spectacular display of snowdrops. Weather pending, the camellias will be in full bloom on the Mount along with an abundance of hellebores and early Spring bulbs.

**Dorchester Beex 2017** - 3 Feb 2017 to 4 Feb 2017  
*Corn Exchange, Dorchester*  
Welcome! Over the years, Dorchester Beex has raised over £130,000 for local good causes. Our 29th event will take place in February 2017 at the Corn Exchange.

**Dorset Forest School Fridays** - 7 Feb 2017  
*Litton Cheney, Dorchester*  

**The Great Half Term Dinosaur Hunt** - 11 Feb 2017 to 19 Feb 2017  
*The Dinosaur Museum, Dorchester*  
The Great Dinosaur Hunt is happening throughout Half Term at the Dinosaur Museum in Dorchester. The event involves the whole museum and lets children explore and search out the answers to the clues of the dinosaur mystery.

**February Half Term – Armour and Protection** - 11 Feb 2017 to 19 Feb 2017  
*The Tank Museum, Bere Regis & Surrounding*  
This February Half Term explore The Tank Museum and experience the biggest day out in history. Tonnes of Fun for Families! Take part in a range of family activities. Kids can also let off steam in our outdoor play area.

**Instant Sunshine** - 12 Feb 2017  
*Dorchester*  
Following their side-splitting performance at our 2015 Summer Sunday fundraiser, Instant Sunshine return by popular demand! This unique musical comedy team has been entertaining audiences for years with their blend of witty songs.

**Purbeck Literary Festival 2017** - 16 Feb 2017 to 24 Feb 2017  
*Wareham*  
Purbeck Literary Festival – Exploring the landscape through literature. Creative, comedy and blog writing workshops, poetry, performances and events featuring the works of Enid Blyton, T.E. Lawrence, Thomas Hardy.

**Mike Denham SpeakEasy with Enrico Tomasso** - 22 Feb 2017  
*Dorchester*  
We are delighted to welcome pianist Mike Denham to the Corn Exchange as he kicks off his regular SpeakEasy nights for 2017 with Enrico Tomasso, three times winner of the British Jazz Award for Best Trumpeter.

**Jenny Eclair – How to be a Middle Aged Woman** - 26 Feb 2017  
*Dorchester*  
Tickets available from Dorchester Tourist Information Centre 01305 267992 and Dorchester Arts 01305 266926.
CUT OUT AND KEEP

With thanks to Michael Hall for compiling this Timetable

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**Note:** All services operate Monday to Saturday inclusive unless otherwise stated at the top of the relevant column.
Recycling, Rubbish & Garden Waste Collection Dates

February 2017

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For more information contact: www.dorsetforyou.com/recycle

COFFEE MORNING

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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).

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MINI PUZZLE

Down
1. Diminish
2. Wordy
3. Tanned animal skin
4. Computer instructions

Across
1. Evolve
2. Windstorm
3. One more
4. Proposition

ANSWERS IN NEXT MONTH’S ISSUE - no prizes... just for fun!

100 CLUB DRAW

Martinstown - November 2016
£25  Joyce Clare
£10  Ann Tate
£5   Mrs Hawkes

Martinstown - December 2016
£25  Eileen Hobday
£10  Margaret Barden
£5   Pat Marsh

Answers to last month’s Crossword

– Dorset Police –
Safer Neighbourhood Team

Meet your local Neighbourhood Policing Team 2017
At Martinstown Post Office
2nd Wed every month
14.00 -14.30
11th Jan • 8th Feb • 8th March
12th April • 10th May • 14th June
12th July • 9th Aug • 13th Sept
11th Oct • 8th Nov • 13th Dec
If you cannot make this but would still like to speak with us please contact: 101
or email:
Dorchester-rural-npt@dorset.pnn.police.uk

The next drop-in which is 8th Feb PCSO Sarah Pilcher will have information regarding how to keep yourself safe with regard to Scams be it on computer, door step salesman or on the phone.

Knit and Natter...

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

“Love thy neighbour — and if he happens to be tall, debonair and devastating, it will be that much easier.”

Mae West

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