Nearly there (hopefully)...

Hello everyone – I hope you & all your loved ones are STILL keeping well, and you are STILL coping with the restrictions that this global pandemic has forced upon us.

Events are STILL changing daily and at time of writing this we are just entering into a slightly less restrictive phase. The government has issued new directives that will enable a bit more freedom to move about, some more businesses to open again ...and even the freedom to play golf!!! I don’t know how much more will have changed, by the time you read this – but I am pretty sure the ‘social distancing’ guidelines will still apply for some time!

So, in the meantime...

We are continuing to produce some kind of V&V publication in order to get you a few messages, a few words of comfort, a few little things to pass the time. The usual means of production and delivery is STILL out of the question, so here it is – the SECOND (and hopefully the last) digital edition of the Valley & Valence newsletter.

As before, If you know someone that would like to read this but can’t, PLEASE print a copy out for them and pop it through their letter box - I’m sure they would very much appreciate it!

Graham H - Editor

Answers to the ‘Just for Fun – Where is it?’ Quiz
1. Hardy’s Monument
2. Stone Circle sculpture at Blackdown
3. Queen Mother Statue, Poundbury
4. Winterbourne Valley School
5. Martinstown Store
6. Model railway, Martinstown
7. The Brewers’ Arms
8. Sheepwash
9. Martinstown Cricket Club
10. Martinstown Village Hall
11. The Parish Office War Memorial
12. Well by Fairfield

Dedicated to all the people that are selflessly and tirelessly helping others during these difficult times (you know who you are)!
While church services are suspended you may like to have the readings that would have been used if we had been able to meet.

**SUNDAY 7TH JUNE • TRINITY SUNDAY**
Isaiah 40. 12–17, 27–end  
2 Corinthians 13. 11–end  
Gospel: Matthew 28. 16–20

**SUNDAY 14TH JUNE • 1ST AFTER TRINITY**
Exodus 19. 2–8a  
Romans 5. 1–8  
Gospel: Matthew 9. 35 – 10. 8

**SUNDAY 21ST JUNE • 2ND AFTER TRINITY**
Jeremiah 20. 7–13  
Romans 6. 1b–11  
Gospel: Matthew 10. 24–39

**SUNDAY 28TH JUNE • 3RD AFTER TRINITY**
Jeremiah 28. 5–9  
Romans 6. 12–end  
Gospel: Matthew 10. 40–end

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As we are no longer able to meet, Martinstown WI have been making use of IT by holding a Zoom Committee meeting and our regular Book Clubs. We have produced a newsletter so that members can keep in touch, especially important for those having to self isolate. This month was a VE Day edition when several members shared their memories of 1945, including Maureen Marchant who was a member of the Women’s Land Army on a farm in Hampshire and still proudly wears her uniform. She recalls a bonfire in the village and a lot of laughter and noise – but she still had to go and help with the afternoon milking.

Some of us were able to join in singing “Jerusalem” on the Green on 8th May. As usual, Lesley (along with Mark) entered into the spirit of things. But we all look forward to the time when we can have a proper celebration.

If there is no possibility of visiting the hairdresser until July, I think the WI ladies will have to go back to wearing hats at our meetings!

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The Winterbourne Community Trust
...is here to support individuals and families experiencing financial hardship is these difficult times. We can offer grants to help with everyday living expenses and some practical support.

We cover Martinstown, Winterborne Steepleton and Winterborne Abbas.

**ALL ENQUIRES ARE CONFIDENTIAL.**

Please contact Frances Clifford on 889400 or 07780441043  
or frances_clifford@hotmail.com  
...or Jan Griffiths on 889783 or j.griffiths127@btinternet.com  
...or Joy Parsons on 889611

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**www.martinstown-news.co.uk**
...send us YOUR news and views!

E: info@martinstown-news.co.uk

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**Recycling, Rubbish & Garden Waste Collection Dates**

**JUNE 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Recycling and Food</th>
<th>Rubbish and Food</th>
<th>Garden Waste</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th (Thursday)</td>
<td>recycling and food</td>
<td>11th (Thursday)</td>
<td>10th (Wednesday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th (Thursday)</td>
<td>recycling and food</td>
<td>25th (Thursday)</td>
<td>24th (Wednesday)</td>
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For more information contact: [www.dorsetforyou.com/recycle](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/recycle)

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**Martinstown Draw • MAY 2020**

1st prize - Christine Gibson  
2nd prize - Joan Read  
3rd prize - Fiona Elford
After a fairly manic period of planning and preparation, staff here at DCH are relieved that West Dorset, along with the rest of the West Country, hasn’t seen a tsunami of Covid patients when compared with the rest of the country. After the hectic planning and preparation phase, freeing up beds, making space in ED and ITU, discharging patients to community settings, stopping all elective (planned) admissions, the hospital was suddenly very quiet with lots of empty beds and no visitors. Indeed, we have never had more than 20 Covid positive patients at one time (well within our capacity) and on Friday when I last checked the number had reduced to 5 and no one has died from Covid in the hospital in the last week.

As a result the hospital leadership teams are starting to think about how to safely re–start some of our routine business. It is likely that, even after lockdown has finished, we will continue to have a small number of Covid patients for months to come and we will also have to remain prepared for the occasional spike in numbers. This will mean that the hospital won’t return to normal any time soon. However our concern is increasingly turning to all those people who need us but are staying away. So last week we began a slow return to normal business and admitted 558 elective and non–elective patients and we delivered 3,632 outpatient appointments.

The message is: Your hospital is open and safe and ready to care for you. Don’t stay away if you need us.

All of us at DCH have felt the love and support of our local community during these trying times. One nurse told me of how she felt guilty receiving thanks and gifts when we have been so quiet. But when she told a member of the public this they replied, “But you planned and prepared and are here, ready to care for us. That’s what I’m grateful for.” The public have been so kind and generous in their support. It makes us feel we really are all in this together.

We always were, “all in this together” weren’t we? We just didn’t always live as though we were! It’s so easy to become dislocated from community life. Covid is perhaps reminding us (and teaching some) that, to quote John Donne, “No man (or woman) is an island.” Will the lesson stick when all this is over? That’s up to each and every one of us. To quote a prayer response used at the Clergy Day last year, “Through our prayers and by our actions, thy kingdom come.”

Reverend Ron Martin
Lead Chaplain Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Associate Priest Sherborne Abbey

Thoughts from the Desk of... Rev. Ron Martin

Martinstown Village Store

The shop is still very much open, but with reduced hours.

We are also still offering a home delivery service to those in need with the help of several volunteers; alongside this we are cooking up a home cooked meal each Wednesday and Saturday.

The Post Office is still open too for cash withdrawals, deposits, bill payments, gas/electric and telephone top ups. Posting is still available but delays are possible.

This month I want to say a big thank you to all my local suppliers for ensuring that I have been able to still provide all of my customers all they have needed during the lockdown.

I am a huge advocate of supporting the local businesses here in Dorset and during this time it has proven that local is best as they not only offer great produce but care and want to keep the county supplied in these difficult times. So I salute my suppliers – and here is just a few of them...

Craig’s Dairy, Punch & Judy Bakery, Woodsford Leaves, Foots Eggs, Crook & Churn, One2One, Manna Kitchen, Olives Kitchen, Dorset Honey, Purbeck Ice Cream, Moore’s, Colin Clark & Son, Kiwi Butcher, Ajar, Copper Street Brewery, West Milton Cider Co.

Take care. Best wishes – Karen xx
Church Services re-Zoom!

Each week since Palm Sunday, our church family has been gathering and, over those weeks, our congregation has gradually been growing. But no laws or rules have been broken! Whilst the doors to our church buildings in the Winterbournes and Compton Valence may have had to remain locked (and look likely to have to continue being so for some time to come), with the help of Zoom, we’ve been able to continue to meet, to see and greet one another and to worship together. Singing along to the hymns can feel a little strange in isolation, but you can at least sing as loudly as you like.

If you would like to join us, you would be very welcome. Services for Martinstown, as ever, are at 11 a.m. each week and for Compton Valence at 9.30 a.m. on the second Sunday of the month: if you let Rev. Jean Saddington have your email address (revjeanwinterbournes@hotmail.com), you’ll receive an email invitation from her on the previous Friday or Saturday. All you then need to do is click on the link provided 5 or 10 minutes before the service is due to start on the Sunday morning. To join the Winterbourne Abbas services at 10.30 a.m., please contact Rev. Jo Lacy-Smith (jolacysmith@gmail.com).

If you’d prefer to participate without being seen, you can disable the video link – please have a word with, or email, Peter if you’d like any assistance with doing that or any other Zoom service issues (p_wilkinson@hotmail.com or 889077).

We printed out the V&V as you suggested for our neighbours in the close behind us and one of them dropped this note through the door.

MARTINSTOWN

Garden and Craft Show
Sunday 16th August • Martinstown Village Hall

We don’t know if we will be able to have our Show in the Village Hall on Sunday 16th August. We hope something will be possible, if not the usual extravaganza, but at the moment it’s impossible to say.

However, if you are now running out of home-based projects, here are some ideas that could possibly end up as exhibits in the Show. If not, at least you will have enjoyed trying something new, perhaps. All recipes and instructions should be available online.

Grow Radishes.

These are rather under-appreciated, probably because they are so easy to grow and a bit boring in a salad. They are very tasty sliced into a stir-fry, steamed to give colour in a medley of vegetables, roasted with garlic and herbs or even chopped up with cheese, onion and mayo in a roll or baguette. Larger and more exotic is the ‘moulie’ type of radish that look a bit like a parsnip. It will give a peppery flavour to any dish, even a stew!

Soda Bread.

Very quick to make and a great standby if you are waiting for a delivery or just fancy a change. Do not bother to try to source buttermilk for the recipe, use plain yoghurt instead (not low fat).

Un-lemon Curd.

We all know that lemon curd is great for cakes, tarts and meringues, so experiment a bit. Limes are still available and key-lime pie is a slice of heaven. I am going to try making a grapefruit and orange version just to see how it turns out, perhaps served in a big dollop on top of ice-cream.

A Wildlife Corner.

Make and fill a small pond in the garden, perhaps by utilising a big shallow bowl and then provide a handmade bug hotel to go on the bank, which would be an idea for an entry in the Craft Section in the Show. Perhaps a wormery would be a novel feature and butterfly-friendly planting completes the picture. This could be a fun project to show your friends and family when they eventually call in for a cup of tea, while the bees buzz around and dragonflies hover over the water.

Dorset Apple Cake, Dorset Dough Cake and Dorset Wiggs.

One of these was destined to be the featured recipe in this year’s Show but even if we cannot exhibit this year, due to the pandemic, it will surely return in 2021. So, a bit of practice would do no harm.

In the meantime, keep safe and well and enjoy your kitchen and garden, even if it is just a window box.

Anne Tate

Please continue to nurture your Potato Grown in a Container and your Valley Club Plug Plant because you never know!
Winterborne St Martin Parish Council

As you will know the Parish Council have not been able to hold a Parish Council meeting since lock down but now that legislation has changed, we are trying a new way of virtual meetings using Zoom. www.zoom.us

We have had a few practice sessions using laptops, tablets, phones and a landline all have been very successful.

See some of the Councillors in training!

The next planned PC meeting will be on Wednesday 27th May at 7pm via Zoom

The invitation and instructions will be on the agenda, please contact the Clerk if you need any support in attending the meeting.

The Council still continue to carry out the day to day duties.

We hope to soon have the Allotment site up and running.

The Annual Accounts for 2019-2020 have been internally audited and will soon be available for public view from the website.

Should you wish to contact the Council, please email the Clerk using the contact details below or contact any of the Councillors with your questions, contact details on the PC website.

Keep safe and well and look forward to seeing some of you at the Zoom meeting.

Signed by The Clerk: Mrs M T Harding
West Elworth Farm, Elworth, Portesham, Weymouth, DT3 4HF
Telephone: 07814 016971
Website: www.martinstown-news.co.uk/the-parish-council
Email: winterbornestmartin@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

Green Martinstown

A new initiative by and for the residents of Martinstown, to make our village SUSTAINABLE.

A public meeting was going to be called in April but that is obviously not possible now.

In the meantime a new page on Martinstown News & Views has been set up to offer ideas, links to other similar projects and money-saving tips by being greener.

CLICK HERE to visit our page on www.martinstown-news.co.uk

Memories of the End of the War by Ken Symonds

“I remember 25 April of 1945 and Operation Berchtesgaden clearly. It was the only day we ran to our Lancaster.

Myself, Captain Tommy Hawkins and 3 other Aussies; bomb aimer, navigator, & wireless operator. The mid upper gunner was an Irishman, the tail gunner Taff Hughes, Welsh.

We set off on what was the last bombing raid of the war, knowing it was all coming to an end. Mission accomplished, we high tailed it back having lost one engine over the target. Arriving back in Nottingham we then rushed to the mess for bacon & eggs.

On 4 May we began bringing back our POW’s from Europe/Brussels to Leighton Buzzard. We crammed in 20 soldiers at a time to the Lancasters fuselage, of course it had no seating but they were very grateful to be sitting on the floor of a cold Lancaster.

We came in over the White Cliffs of Dover – a welcome sight for those who could just see out of the aircraft.

VE day for me was just normal operation duties such as those runs. The POW’s were greeted by the whole station, the NAAFI tea van went into overtime pouring out tea. However I do remember all ranks & sexes still on the base gathered on the Parade Ground in the evening to dance & caper about. Glad it was all over.

Within days we were practising formation flying for a fly past of Buckingham Palace, with a Dakota and a Spitfire.

Training for the Far East followed, but was halted by the Atom bomb dropping.”

Squadron Leader Ken Symonds was born in Weymouth & served in RAF from 1942 – 1982. He moved to Martinstown in 1965. He was awarded AFM in 1955 by HM Queen.
A message from Tony Boyden, Chair of Dorchester and District Christian Aid Committee.

Christian Aid Week was the 10th to 16th May, but with the current restrictions in place it was impossible to mount normal fund-raising activities such as the house-to-house collections in Dorchester and surrounding villages, the street collection in Dorchester, sponsored activities and the Christian Aid market and lunches.

Many of the world’s poorer countries are the least well equipped in terms of health provision to deal with the present COVID epidemic. If we think about how fortunate we have been to have our outstanding NHS and all other support services to rely on, imagine how desperate things are in many poorer nations throughout the world.

So this year we are asking people if they would like to make a personal donation to Christian Aid. All the funding raised this year will go to supporting poorer counties in their fight against the pandemic.

Donations may be sent to: Dorchester Christian Aid (at Lloyds Bank, Dorchester) Sort Code: 30–92–69 Account Number 00753286. Or you can give directly via the national Christian Aid website.

If you would like a Gift Aid form, these can be obtained from Tony Boyden (Dorchester Christian Aid Chair) on anthony_boyden@talktalk.net or by texting 07881 464790.

Thank you for your support.

William and The Garden Party...

It was every ardent royalist’s dream: an old friend on my doorstep saying, “Would you like to come to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party with me?”

Many of you will know that friend, William Parmiter, who lived in Martinstown for many years and came back to join in pantos, plays and Open Gardens. Many others will know of him through his and Emily’s weekly column in the Dorset Echo (though fewer may have seen the one in the BMJ!).

What you may not know about is the amount of voluntary work that William does for (and brilliantly supported by) Friendship Club, part of People First Dorset [see https://www.peoplefirstdorset.org.uk]. It is for his Services to the Community in his role at People First Dorset that he was nominated to receive an invitation to Buckingham Palace Garden Party on May 12th 2020. Sadly, as we all know, Garden Parties were cancelled this year, to the considerable disappointment of William and his guest.

Buckingham Palace tea bags and biscuits in his parents’ beautiful garden were a temporary substitute for an exciting day out. Next year, though, God willing, Buckingham Palace, here we come!

Alison Crawford

Dorset Digital Hotline – Can we help you?

Tel: 01305 221000 (Select Option 2).
Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 12 noon (except Bank Holidays) or leave a message.

We wanted everyone in your local community to know that there is a new free telephone hotline set up in response to the COVID-19 lockdown, to provide support for people with IT and digital problems of all kinds.

- helping families with digital applications for home schooling
- providing help to get online for home shopping
- support for all digital NHS services and e-Consult
- setting up video calls such as Skype and Facetime to keep in contact with friends & family
- support to use all digital appliances and solve problems
1945 Recollections...

V.E. Day May 8th 1945 was not especially memorable for me, a 14 year old schoolgirl. Nothing much changed: rationing was far from over. Food was boring not scarce, cakes remained as dry as ever, inevitable with the necessary use of powdered eggs. The only jam that could be bought was so-called plum which we all agreed was probably dyed apple. Bananas were a rare treat. Clothes rationing remained until 1949. There were no teenage styles. No full skirts. I don’t even remember the use of the word ‘teenager’ at that time. Christian Dior’s “New Look” did not reach the fashions of suburban Surrey for several years.

We had recently returned as a family from a second spell of evacuation, and so I had missed one and a half terms of secondary school. My principal worry in May was that I would be “kept down” the following September. The thought of starting again with the lower year was humiliating. Luckily several of my friends were in the same situation.

In May my father was not yet demobbed. He had been called up to serve in the RAF in 1939. Returning from Europe in 1945 when he was on leaves he took me to several political meetings which were held in the local Institute hall. These meetings were in support of a new political party. Our family thought my father was becoming dangerously left–wing – he had always voted Conservative! There was much talk of an impending General Election. Sure enough in July 1945 Churchill was ousted by Clement Attlee and then changes did happen. After VJ day in August, following the dropping of two atomic bombs on Japan, we now really had peace and much bigger adjustments had to be made by the thousands of ex–service men and women who were returning after many years away from their families. This included ours.

Just because there was peace, life was not suddenly wonderful. Shortages were commonplace, queueing was normal, points coupons had to be cut out of ration books for almost all food items. At least there was no longer a blackout, or sirens wailing an air raid was on the way, and we no longer had to spend almost all night in a makeshift bed under the Morrison table shelter in the living room. Winters grew ever colder culminating in the famous freeze which lasted for six weeks, two years after we had welcomed peace. Warmth from central heating was a luxury for very few. Still, we were safe.

by Margaret Hearing

Fran’s blog for lockdown...

So here we are still in lockdown after 8 weeks. Relentlessly, Thursday evenings come around and as the clock strikes 8 many valley residents come out to whistle and clap and batter saucepans as the Martinstown Church bells toll. Such a poignant sound and appreciated by everyone. So many ways of saying thank you to NHS staff care workers and all key workers and a big thankyou to Howard Bowering.

...so what else has been happening to raise our spirits?

In April a small group of singers and instrumentalists met on the village green to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth year. Peter Wilkinson played the introduction and the other musicians joined in, and soon the strains of ‘Ode to Joy’ were drifting in the air.

This musical experience was repeated in May with the advent of VE day As the clock struck 11am, the 2 minute silence began interrupted only by a trail of traffic headed by a police car.

This famous day was marked by the Union Flag flapping at the head of the St Martins Church flag post. Strictly speaking as determined by a senior member of the Church of England the flag of St George should have been flown. But now, once more the musicians arrived on the green to sing and to play – beginning with a rendition of ‘Jerusalem’ followed by Vera Lynn’s ‘We’ll Meet Again’. As The performance came to an end the Church bell tolled once more. A beautiful sound rounding up another emotive experience. But now it was time for many to leave the Village Green and head off to the bunting decorated streets and lanes where tea, cake and wine was waiting to continue the celebration of the end of World War 2 in Europe – all be it, at a distance!

by Margaret Hearing

An Oak for Martinstown...

A few years ago, and after some time discovering and then negotiating the correct permissions, I planted a young oak tree in a corner of St. Martin’s Churchyard. To my knowledge it is the only deciduous oak tree in Martinstown which can be seen without accessing private land, although there is a fine evergreen holm oak nearby. This young tree can be found in the bank right at the top left–hand corner of the churchyard. Currently it has new golden leaves and is surrounded by a mass of white cow parsley, but this display may be over by the time of publication.

I am not quite sure how trees date their birth, but I can say that this one, by any reckoning, is 20 years old. I know this because it was grown from a just germinating acorn collected from a forest floor in early Spring 2000; so that acorn must have been dropped in 1999: a “millennium oak”. I picked up the acorn on a whim when we were visiting my father–in–law, Alex Farnes, who then lived just outside Canterbury. We had walked from his garden which adjoined The Blean, one of the largest areas of ancient woodland in England. Some of the oaks are quite venerable – perhaps dating back to the time of the Canterbury Tales!

The tree is now only about 7ft. tall having been pot grown for the first 15 years of its life. In fact, as a very tiny tree it very nearly should have been flown. But now, once more – perhaps dating back to the time of the Canterbury Tales!

The tree is now only about 7ft. tall having been pot grown for the first 15 years of its life. In fact, as a very tiny tree it very nearly should have been flown. But now, once more – perhaps dating back to the time of the Canterbury Tales!

by Rollo Clifford
Nats Fish & Chip Van is back on WEDNESDAY! From 5pm – 7pm. Text or call 07803257674 we are still PRE ORDER ONLY by 5pm on the preceding TUESDAY

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**L & F Catering**

**Traditional Fish ’n’ Chips**

- Fish
  - Cod Small £4.00
  - Cod Large £5.00
  - Haddock £4.50
  - Seampi £4.00
  - Fishcake £1.50
- Chips
  - X Small £1.50
  - Regular £2.00
  - Large £2.50
- Non-Fish
  - Jumbo Sausage £2.00
  - Regular Sausage £1.50
  - Chicken Nuggets £4.00
  - 1/4lb Beef Burger £3.00
  - 1/2lb Beef Burger + cheese £4.00
  - Vegetarian Burger £3.00
  - Cheese/Onion Frit £1.50
  - Onion Rings £1.50
  - Baked Beans £1.00

**For specials check out our specials board**

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**Kids Menu (under 13)**

- Cod all £4.00
- Sausage Fish Cake
- Chicken Nuggets
- Includes chips and drink

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**Extras**

- Curry Sauce £1.00
- Mushy Peas £1.00
- Pickled Egg, Onion or Gherkin 30p each
- Bread Roll 50p
- Can of Drink £1.00

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Knitting a Teddy Bears’ Picnic

Stuck at home and need something to keep you busy during these weeks of isolation? Why not join in and help us to create a big Teddy Bears’ Picnic! You can knit, crochet or sew bears in any way, shape, form or colour you like; or make some food for them to eat; or a blanket to sit on – no limits to your imagination! Think of a sunny summer’s day when we will hopefully all be outside again celebrating better times, and let your imagination take over.

We are hoping to display our creations later this year, and then sell the items to raise money for Royal Voluntary Service.

So get started now and let me know what you are making; once we are able to we will either pick your creations up or you can post them to our office in Dorchester.

Any questions please contact Maria Jacobson, Service Manager Dorset Home Library Service, tel. 07786 635154 or email: maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

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Correct Cash or Card.

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A helpline for vulnerable people in need of vital support in the Dorset Council area

01305 221000

communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Dorset Council

#DorsetTogether