A 17th Century Georgian House, set in the idyllic village of Winterborne St Martin.

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”.

We also offer a wide range of quality Home Care services.

Visit www.parkhousecare.org to find out more.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR LATEST JOB VACANCIES

TEL: 01305 889420 • email: info@parkhousecare.org
FLEXIBLE CARE

In your home and when you need it...

Experienced in care of the elderly
CRB checked • Fully insured
First Aid qualified • References available

To find out more please call Antonia Cook
Tel: 01305 889499 or Mobile: 07813 196 958
Last month I successfully held a meat raffle which was rather popular so this will now become a monthly fixture.

There will be three prizes consisting of a joint of meat, a breakfast pack and a seasonal choice. All meat is supplied from our local Kiwi butcher in Dorchester.

Also do note if you did require any meat for everyday use or a special occasion I can order in your specific requirements.

Hope to see you soon. Karen Barrett
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.

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 Stan Laurel ©2017.
Dear Friends

A vicar of a country benefice was delighted to note, as he began the morning service in one of his parish churches, that the local squire was sitting in the front pew. After the service, as the vicar stood at the door shaking hands with the congregation, the squire shook hands with the vicar and congratulated him on his sermon.

That evening the vicar was conducting evensong at a different church in the benefice. When he walked out of the vestry he was horrified to see the squire once again sitting in the front pew. The problem was he had decided to preach the same sermon as in the morning. Realising it was too late to do anything about it he preached the sermon. At the end of the service the squire warmly shook the vicar’s hand and said, “Another cracking sermon vicar”!

That little story pierces the heart of all those who have ever stood before a congregation to preach. It was told to me many years ago when I was just starting out as a preacher – it was not meant to discourage but did serve as a reality check!

Consider the thousands of sermons that are preached across the country every week – literally thousands of people getting up to deliver their sermon. Do any of them say anything new I wonder? I doubt it. More importantly, I doubt any of them set out to do so because the goal of every preacher is, or should be, simply to proclaim the age-old message of the gospel. They would certainly attempt to explore different approaches and angles, but ultimately the heart of what they say will have been said many, many times before.

Thinking about this made me reflect on how the scriptures figure in our lives today and whether what is said is church is crucial to our understanding of the scriptures.

Thankfully, scripture’s ability to speak doesn’t depend on any human agency, however helpful this may be at times. It has spoken across the years to countless generations and continues to do the same today, still having the power to transform lives and win people to faith in Christ. We do our best to fathom and communicate its meaning but, thankfully, God does not depend solely on us – his word is able to speak for itself. And isn’t it amazing that words of scripture initially concerned with events and people long past leap off the page as though God is speaking directly to us? Here is the wonder of the Bible: that words so very old can seem so startlingly new.

That is why we call it God’s word, because, difficult though it may sometimes be to understand – occasionally dry, often complex, frequently mystifying – God can nonetheless speak through it today, to you, to me, to everyone.

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 Parishes 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.

SPRING Messy Church
At St. Mary’s Winterbourne Abbas
On Saturday 20th MAY 2017 10am till 1pm
FREE! For families of all shapes and sizes.
Please do come along and join with us for stories, activities, song and sharing lunch together
Jo Lacy-Smith 01305 889476

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
14th to 20th May

Christian Aid Week was set up 60 years ago to support refugees in Europe following the Second World War.

Let’s act again now, to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home. No-one chooses to leave everything they know behind. But when the alternative is terror, bombs and bullets, almost anything is better. This is the terrible choice facing tens of millions of people worldwide - fleeing conflict and disaster, making dangerous journeys in search of safety.

Please support Christian Aid Week in your village this year when the familiar red envelope comes through your door.

Thank you

A Silent Space: Being Open
We invite you to join with a group of who come together to open themselves up to the Holy Spirit in St. Martin’s Church, on Tuesday 2nd May at 6pm for 20 minutes of silent meditation, drawn to a close by reading poetry.

This month, following the recently reported atrocities in Syria we will be thinking of all those suffering the affects of war and the threat of war.
Jo Lacy-Smith 01305 889476

- 7 -
## CHURCH CALENDAR

### SUNDAY 7 MAY • EASTER 4
- **10.00** Holy Communion | Winterbourne Abbas
- **11.00** Holy Communion | Martinstown

### SUNDAY 14 MAY • EASTER 5
- **08.00** Holy Communion (BCP) | Martinstown
- **09.30** Holy Communion | Compton Valence
- **11.00** Holy Communion | Winterbourne Steepleton

### SUNDAY 21 MAY • EASTER 6
- **10.00** Holy Communion | Winterbourne Abbas
- **11.00** Holy Communion | Martinstown
- **18.00** Taizé | Winterbourne Steepleton

### THURSDAY 25 MAY • ASCENSION DAY
- **10.00** Morning Prayer for Ascension Day | Martinstown

### SUNDAY 28 MAY • EASTER 7
- **11.00** Holy Communion | Martinstown

Morning prayer is every held every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am in Martinstown and evening prayer on Thursdays at 5:30pm at Winterbourne Abbas.

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**Poundbury Quiet Day**

at ‘The Quiet Space’ in Poundbury

Saturday May 27th 2017

11.00am – 3.30pm

Refreshments from 10.30am.

‘Sabbath Rest’

Donations welcome on the day to cover costs.

Please book a place by email carolineellerby@phonecoop.coop or tel: 01305 459622 mob: 07795140708

Bring a packed lunch, Bible, notebook and pen

Tea, coffee, biscuits and cake provided

Further information on The Quiet Space www.thequietspacedorchester.org 01305 250719

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New Kissing Gate - recently erected behind Martinstown Church. Dedicated to the memory of Edward Barnes, who farmed there from 1976 - 2013.
In late 2016, having spent many years of both volunteering and working with international volunteers a small group of us (including Rosie Duke and Dick Corbett-Winder) decided that we wanted to focus on art-based projects so we decided to set up a bespoke charity with the objective of placing volunteers with art skills on international projects.

Through the medium of art, we will provide both therapy and pleasure to vulnerable communities in developing countries. In many cases it combines this with teaching individuals a vocational skill. It also creates a forum for cross cultural exchange and an educational experience for volunteer artists.

The projects we support are not front line, desperate initiatives and are unlikely to create headlines of their own. They are however humanitarian causes playing a vital role in supporting vulnerable people. These projects are well organised and provide adequate shelter, food, clothing and often an education for the residents. Life however remains difficult. The standard of living is rudimentary. Imagine living in a shelter with bare concrete walls, concrete floors and the drudgery of surviving to keep you going until tomorrow.

The joy and therapy that art can bring to people’s lives has been widely recognised. It can heal wounds, open imaginations and break down cultural barriers. We need volunteers with a range of art skills to support these projects.

Create a massive wall mural at a centre for disabled children in Sri Lanka, teach textile skills to landmine victims in Cambodia, create a sculpture with HIV children in India, lead a dance workshop with children in Palestine, paint a school devastated by the earthquake in Nepal.

The charity is in the process of being registered formed with an intended launch of the 1st May.

To run the charity we need funds and with this objective in mind Dick Corbett-Winder and Tim Bareham, neither of whom can be described as slim, intend to shed 4 stone between them.

Should you wish to support us please contact Dick 889410, Rosie 889555 or Tim 889506.

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**Joan Haine**

Geoffrey and family would like to thank all those who have sent cards and condolences and who came to the Thanksgiving Service for Joan at Martinstown church. Your support continues to be a great comfort to Geoff.

We would also like to thank Revd Rosemary Bassett for her sensitive support and officiating at the crematorium and the church. Ruth Marshall with her efficient catering team provided splendid refreshments after the service, thank you. Woods expertly guided us through the funeral arrangements.

So far, over £560 has been collected for Marie Curie and £450 for Cancer Research UK.

Thank you so much for these donations in Joan’s memory.
# Notice Board

## MONDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</td>
<td>10.00am - 12noon</td>
<td>Lizzie Walden - Tel: 07949 639011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>2.30pm - 3.30pm</td>
<td>Margaret Hearing - Tel: 01305 889346</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beavers, Cubs &amp; Scouts</td>
<td>5.30pm - 7.30pm</td>
<td>Sue Gower - Tel: 01305 889388</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valley Club</td>
<td>7.30pm - 10.00pm</td>
<td>Pat Willets - Tel: 01305 889597</td>
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## TUESDAY

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Botanical Art Group</td>
<td>9.30am - 12.30pm</td>
<td>Geoff Roberts - Tel: 01305 815735</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Group</td>
<td>2.30pm - 4.30pm</td>
<td>Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>7.30pm - 9.30pm</td>
<td>Trevor Elliot - Tel: 01305 267897</td>
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## WEDNESDAY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pilates</td>
<td>9.30am - 10.30pm</td>
<td>Sammie McFarland - Tel: 07807 090013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair-based Exercise</td>
<td>11.15am - 12.30pm</td>
<td>Suzanne Fellows-Joyce - Tel: 01308 426390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.I.</td>
<td>6.45pm - 9.00pm</td>
<td>Jan Griffiths - Tel: 01305 889738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginners Dance</td>
<td>8.00pm - 10.00pm</td>
<td>Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248</td>
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## THURSDAY

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Group</td>
<td>10.00pm - 1.00pm</td>
<td>Betty Hoddinott - Tel: 01305 262217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Group</td>
<td>8.00pm - 10.00pm</td>
<td>Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248</td>
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## FRIDAY

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keep Fit Class</td>
<td>10.15am - 11.30am</td>
<td>Suzanne Fellows-Joyce - Tel: 01308 426390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bingo</td>
<td>7.00pm - 9.30pm</td>
<td>Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248</td>
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Chairperson: Jane Jones – Tel: 01305 889202
Bookings: Ann Matthews – Tel: 889248 or email: ronann.matthews@btinternet.com
To book the hall, contact:  
Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248  
Email: ronann.matthews@btinternet.com

ALL VILLAGE HALL USERS • ALL VILLAGE HALL USERS • ALL VILLAGE HALL USERS

Venue: Martinstown Village Hall  – Date: Friday 12th May 2017  
Time: 7pm  – Event: YOUR village hall AGM  
Requirements: YOUR presence

• Come and have your say!! We look forward to seeing you there •

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 December (2nd Friday).

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 Women’s Institute

On 12th April we received very helpful advice about staying safe online from Jake Moor, Cyber Crime Prevention Officer for Dorset Police. He warned us to be aware of “phishing” e-mails, fake websites and scams, to use long passwords (16-20 characters) and to “Take 5” – stop and consider for five minutes before responding online.

Following this talk we held our AGM when we were able to reflect on another enjoyable year in Martinstown WI. We were very pleased to re-elect Jan Griffiths as our President for another year and we look forward to a varied and interesting programme in 2017/18. Our numbers continue to be maintained at 32 and new members are always very welcome.

At our next meeting on Wednesday 10th May at 7 pm we have a talk from Kay Townsend on “My Life Growing up in a Fairground” which is sure to be very entertaining.

There are still a few places on the Village Outing to Mottisfont (NT) and Romsey. The cost will be £16 (non-refundable) for the coach plus £11 entry to Mottisfont house and garden (free for NT members). To make sure of your place contact me on 889628 or Eileen Fisher on 889584.

Angela Barrett - Secretary
Martinstown’s great
CAR TREASURE HUNT!

SUNDAY 11 JUNE

PRIZES!!

JOIN US!
Meet at Martinstown
Village Hall at 2.30pm
Staggered start - not a race
REFRESHMENTS!
Drinks & Ploughman supper
at the finish (Pre book)
TEAM FUN!
Make up a team with friends
3 plus driver per car
LIMITED SPACES
Please pre register by
2nd June
ENTRY
£10 PER CAR

CALL TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFO
STUART NUTTALL - 01305 889920 OR
CATHIE SEIGAL - 01305 889244
ROELIE NEWMAN - 01305 889192

Fundraising for Kennedy’s Disease UK
Registered Charity No: 1180793
www.kennedysdiseaseuk.com

Organised by
Martinstown Circle Supper Group
The Foghorn Stringband

Sun 28 May, 7:30pm.
Portesham Village Hall.
Tel: 01305 871925
£10, £7 u18s, £28 family ticket

The Foghorn Stringband is the present day shining gold standard for American Stringband music. With eight albums and over a decade of touring under their belts, it’s no surprise they have two entirely new generations of old-time musicians following their lead. Through all of this, they’ve never let the music grow cold; instead they’ve been steadily proving that American Roots music is a never-ending well of inspiration.

Their music revolves around four master musicians and their stunning interweaving harmonies; Caleb Klauder (vocals, mandolin, fiddle), Reeb Willms (vocals, guitar), Nadine Landry (vocals, upright bass) and Stephen ‘Sammy’ Lind (vocals, fiddle, banjo) gather around one microphone and play with an intense, fiery abandon. From their origins in Portland Oregon’s vibrant underground roots music scene, Foghorn have spread the old-time string band gospel all over the world. Along the way they’ve brought in influences and inspirations from many travels and late-night jam sessions. Old-time square dance tunes rub shoulders with Cajun waltzes, vintage honky-tonk songs and bluegrass picking, creating a bubbling and intoxicating musical brew.

Expect an evening of authentic America roots music as the band tour Dorset through Artsreach, the counties rural touring scheme. www.artsreach.co.uk

Fran’s Blog

May 2017

Whilst I was away in the early part of the year a rapt audience was privileged to hear consultant anaesthetist, Dr. Colin Berry talk about his time in South Sudan working with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Few would be able to forget his account of working with the brave, beleaguered people of the world’s newest nation. He shared his experiences of medical emergencies in a hospital in the capital city of Juba, in a local hospital in a remote area of the country and in a room in a clinic in the bush, turned for the day into an emergency operating room with the waiting room in the shade of a tree outside.

The ICRC is one of the few aid agencies which provide medical and other assistance to those directly affected by war. Most of Dr. Berry’s patients had presented with gunshot and other weaponry wounds.

This was not an evening of doom and gloom but all left the Village hall that evening totally aware of the difficulties of those trying to make a difference to a population living in an emerging and crippling poor country caught up in a civil war.

It had been an inspirational evening with tales of NGOs striving to improve the health of the injured and in many cases being successful and thus enabling the patient to return home.

I am so sorry that I was unable to attend this amazing talk. I do hope that one day Dr. Berry will return to tell us more about his experiences in countries far from here.

Talking about aid agencies, we are all invited to a fabulous evening of swing, jazz and modern classics presented in perfect harmony by our very own local groups Serenade and Stickleback Jack.

This concert, complete with bar and raffle, will be held in the Brownsword Hall, Poundbury on Saturday May 6th at 7.30 Tickets £8 available on the door, from Harmony Music or from me on 01305 889963. Definitely an occasion not to be missed

All proceeds to Marie Curie Terminal Care.
The Show Schedule will be published early in May and available in local shops, churches and pubs and will be included in the June edition of Valley & Valence (if you live in Martinstown).

Ann Priddle still has some seed potatoes busy chitting away, ready to be planted in a container for the Greatest Weight of Potatoes class. So if you would like one, arrange to collect it from her as soon as possible (01305 889189).

**GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY**

Everything should be growing well in the garden this time of year, so it’s a good time to mention the Craft side of things.

As long as you have not shown a particular exhibit in the Show in a previous year, there will be a suitable Class for just about any type of craft. If you have made it, as an amateur not receiving payment, we would love to see it! Items shown should be in new/unused condition. The theme for photographs will be **Happy Holidays**, so May Bank Holidays will be a good time to get the camera out.

There will be a **Children’s Workshop** in the Village Hall on **Sunday 9 July** at 2pm, to make a variety of fun things for the Children’s classes (under 8 and 8-16). It would be lovely to have more children’s entries this year.

*Happy Gardening.*

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**MARTINSTOWN OPEN GARDENS 2017**

Saturday & Sunday 17th and 18th June

Support this years Martinstown Open Gardens weekend and help refurbish the children’s pay area from the profit made.

The event needs more gardens open for people to visit, that is the purpose of the weekend. Being large and perfect is not what is needed.

Gardens being open for people to wander into makes the weekend work. Give it a go.

*More information will appear here soon.*
**WHAT’S ON... a selection of events taking place this month**

**May 2017**

---

**Vox Fortura** 3 May  
*The Esplanade, Weymouth, DT4 8ED*  
Vox Fortura is the newest most exciting Classical Crossover group in the world. Recently seen as Semi Finalists on Britain’s Got Talent, they stormed the competition with a powerhouse display of vocal panache and won the hearts of all four judges!

---

**Diesel Gala and Beer Festival - Swanage Railway** 5 May 2017 - 7 May  
*Swanage Railway, Station House, SWANAGE, Dorset, BH19 1HB*  
The Diesel Gala will see an impressive line up of diesel locomotives operating on the Swanage Railway.

---

**Weldmar’s Colour Run 2017** 6 May  
*Lodmoor Country Park, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 7SL*  
Back for a third year and is even more colourful than ever before – the Weldmar Hospicecare Colour Run! Open to the whole family, as you pass through our colour stations, brightly coloured powered paint will be thrown at you – creating a bright, fun and colourful t-shirt.

---

**Kokoro - BSO New Music Group** 7 May  
*The Corn Exchange, High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1HF*  
Kokoro is the new music ensemble of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, committed to bringing contemporary music to the South and South West. They return to the Corn Exchange following their hugely memorable performance in January 2016, which featured Messiaen’s Quartet for the End of Time.

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**Birds and Bluebells Guided Walk** 9 May  
*Thorncombe Woods, Hardy’s Birthplace Visitor Centre, Higher Bockhampton, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 8QH*  
Join the Countryside Ranger on a gentle stroll around Thorncombe Woods and Black Heath, taking a wander up and around the Hazel Coppice, revelling in the splendour of the vivid Bluebells, whilst keeping an eye out for our local birdlife. Admission £3 Booking advised

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**Hawkwind** 12 May  
*The Esplanade, Weymouth, DT4 8ED*  
45 years since the legendary “Greasy Truckers Party” at the Roundhouse where Hawkwind recorded their No. 2 single “Silver Machine” single, which featured Motorhead’s Lemmy on vocals, Hawkwind are back in 2017.

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**Dorchester Race for Life 5K** 21 May  
*Kingston Maurward College, Kingston Maurward, DORCHESTER, Dorset, DT2 8PY*  
Cancer Research UK’s Race for Life is a series of women-only events raising money for research into all 200 types of cancer. Join the Race for Life at Dorchester and run, jog or walk with friends to raise money for Cancer Research.

---

**Rocky Flower Show & Plant Fair** 27 May  
*Queen Elizabeth School, Blandford Road, Pamphill, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1AS*  
A must-see event for anybody interested in the diversity of small plants, this competitive show is full of surprises. It is run by the Alpine Garden Society, showcasing mountain plants, small herbaceous plants, dwarf shrubs and bulbs etc.
Martinstown
FUN Dog Show

Sunday 18th June on Martinstown Green
2.00pm (prompt start) • Entries taken from midday

Judging by Mrs Lisa Murrell - Committee member of Guildford Working Gun Dog Club

Goody bag prizes will be presented to the winner of each class
A big thank you to Park House Pet Supplies, Dorchester who kindly donated the goody bags.

Rosettes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th places

SCHEDULE

Classes 1-6 (£2.50 per entry)

1. Golden Oldie (dog or bitch - 11yrs and over)
2. Best Veteran (dog or bitch 7-10yrs incl.)
3. Best Pedigree BITCH over 6 months old
4. Best Pedigree DOG over 6 months old
5. Best rescue/re-homed dog or bitch over 6 months old
6. Best cross bred dog or bitch over 6 months old

Fun Classes (£1.50 per entry)

7. Best Condition
8. Most Like Owner
9. Waggiest Tail
10. Decorated Lead
11. Most Alike Brace of Dogs
12. Most Unalike Brace of Dogs
13. Junior Handler (12 yrs & under)
14. Best Adult Handlers
15. Egg & Spoon Race
16. Best Trick
17. Most Appealing Expression
18. Fancy Dress

All enquiries to:
Antonia Cook - Tel: 07813 196958 or
Linda Gundry - Tel: 01305 889119 / 07866 970062

Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. Please clean up after your dog.
All entrants at owner’s risk.
Abbotsbury and Portesham Branch

Committee Members will be getting together on 4 May at Portesham Village Hall for their quarterly meetings of both the RBL Branch and The Social Fund. Meetings start at 7.30 pm and observers are always welcome.

The 6 day cruise on the River Severn is fully booked (15-20 May incl.) and we now look forward to some nice weather for it! Des has arranged this venture by privately chartering the “Edward Elgar” - any profits will be shared between the Poppy Appeal and Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance.

On 8 July we shall travel by coach to Bishop’s Lydeard nr. Taunton for a private steam train return journey to Minehead. There will be time to explore the town or to visit Dunster. Special low train fare for our party! Coach fares depend on numbers travelling: contact the writer to book. Non Members are welcome to join us.

On 19th of the month we will indulge in a Fish & Chip Supper and enjoy a games evening together. This is always a popular event, so why not join us. Book with Des who will also take your food order in advance.

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

Martinstown PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting started with issues being raised by members of the public. Verge and boulder damage by large, fast tractors was raised and PCSO will be informed of the concerns of those present.

Speeding continues in the built up area, the Chairman noted that cars park on the road seemed very effective in slowing things down and encouraged legal on road parking to proliferate to help the slow continue. The use of stickers attached to wheelie bins with speed limit indicator on them will be investigated as this may also help.

Maintenance issues concerning the sheep dip structure were highlighted and we agreed on solutions to be carried out.

The future of the telephone kiosk in the village was asked about and it was decided that the Council would not pursue this as the long term maintenance was not something that we wish to be involved with.

The council wished to hold an Annual Parish Meeting open to all different from the AGM. Time and venue to be confirmed for early summer.

Meeting closed at 9.06pm
On a rather dull April morning, 13 walkers and 3 dogs left the car park at the Anchor Inn pub, Burton Bradstock and headed off towards the coast. Going across the National Trust car park at the Hive Cafe and began one of many short inclines. Up we went and across the coastal path until Cogden Beach where we turned in land and crossed over the main road and back on to farm track. We did pass a disused pit and the 3 dogs were delighted to come upon the pond but the Canada geese on the pond were not so delighted.

Our walk continued with a few more ups and we did manage to get everyone pasted the cider farm. Many of the fields had very new born lambs, lovely to watch them jumping around. After we all safely crossed the stepping stones and emerged into a field where poor Holly dog had previously discovered the electric fence was on, everyone was warned and being extra careful only for it to be not on this time! One or two of the stiles took a bit of negotiating which lead us to be a little behind schedule arriving at Shipton Gorge church. Two other members joined us here to continue the walk to Burton Bradstock.

St Martins church has a lovely high position over looking wonderful views of Dorset. It was built in the 14th Century and much improved by the Victorians and it has a most unusual 7 sided font. Coffee break over time to move on and head back to Burton Bradstock one last hill to be conquered and we came back down a pretty lane and back to the pub. Good food, plenty of ale and great company finished off a very pleasant walk.

The next walk is Friday 21st April led by Gerald and Rosie. (well know for mud and brambles).
The Martinstown Garden and Craft Committee are running a

CHILDREN’S CRAFT AFTERNOON

at the Village Hall on Sunday 9th July from 2-4pm.

There will be no charge but children must be accompanied. Drinks and biscuits will be provided along with materials required to make something to enter into the Children’s Classes at the Garden Show which will be on Sunday 20th August.

To book a place please ring Jan Griffiths on 01305 889738
The Blanchard Trust

The last years of the 18th century are considered to be the period of greatest hardship for country labourers since the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. To prevent starvation the authorities in Dorset began a system of subsidising wages from the Poor Rates collected from the householders in each parish. This was a disastrous policy, since it meant that people in full-time work were forced to go cap-in-hand to the Parish Overseers and were regarded as undeserving paupers bating on their neighbours. As always, there were people of goodwill who wanted to help their unfortunate neighbours. One of these was Joseph Blanchard, a farmer in Bradford Peverell, who must have had a particular concern for the inhabitants of Winterborne St Martin.

The following is an extract from the Martinstown Burial Register:

Memorandum.

Joseph Blanchard, whose burial is registered later in this Book, May 26 1804, after bequeathing £100 to his relations & £10 per ann to an old servant for her life, desired by his will that the interest of the remainder of his Property amounting to the sum of [illegible] be divided every year amongst the Labouring Poor of this Parish who do not receive parochial aid: for whom Messrs James and Edward Balston are named joint trustees in the will.

In 1814 the first distribution was made by the Trustees and £51 10s was paid out to 38 people. The sums varied from 10s to £2 15s, on the basis that women were paid twice as much as children and men were paid twice as much as women. The value of the original investment gradually diminished. From 1899 local solicitors administered the Trust. The practice had developed of using the interest on the investment to pay an annual pension in monthly sums to two or three deserving applicants. The first meeting of the Trust in January 1905 records the decision to pay two pensioners the sum of 5 shillings (25p) per week. It also records the expenses of £2 10s paid to the Clerk, Mr Huxtable the solicitor, including ‘Cycle hire, being 3 Journeys to Martinstown with Notices – 3s 6d’.

In 1949 the business of the Trust was removed from the Solicitor, and retained by the Trust itself. For forty-eight years the duty of delivering the monthly pensions was undertaken by Mrs Dolly Bowering. A strong association with the Duke family at West End was maintained among the Trustees, and Major Oliver Duke was Clerk to the Trust for half a century. Mr Harry Bowering served as a Representative Trustee for the Parish Council for 55 years.

By 1994 the pensions paid to the two current pensioners were £5.00 per month, with a Christmas Bonus of £35.00. Little more could be done with the funds now available.

The Trustees had become aware that the operation of the Trust was increasingly irrelevant to the needs of the community. A new body of Friends was set up in support of the Trust, with the aim of helping to raise funds. Applications from parishioners for monetary assistance in cases of sudden need were invited. In the early years of the 21st century the financial position of the Trust improved enormously, with donations from village groups and individuals. Claims for assistance from those in need proved to be very rare, though some Trust members were able to identify deserving cases. Good causes across the community life of the area were recognised as appropriate for help, and became regular recipients. There are now thirteen Trustees as well as the group of Friends.
Many thanks to everyone who supported our Chocolate Bingo event last month. There was a huge turnout and a lovely atmosphere. Well done to all the children who won prizes. This was our most successful bingo event to date and all funds will go back into supporting our children’s learning and play at school.

On behalf of the PTFA, I would like to express thanks to Ced, who gave up his time to call for us and also to Bron Davison who has organised this event for a number of years but will sadly be leaving the PTFA at the end of this school year. Many thanks for all your hard work Bron.

Our next event is the very popular FUN RUN, DUCK RACE & BBQ. This will be held on Saturday 13th May in Martinstown with the fun run beginning at 10.30am on the Village Green. This is a 2 mile run/walk and costs £1 for adults and 50p for children. This will be followed by the Duck Race at 11.30am from the stream outside the Brewer’s Arms. Ducks cost £1 each so if you haven’t purchased one, they are available for sale from the pub and the Village Store. Many thanks to the Brewer’s Arms and Karen in the shop, for selling these for us. There will be a prize for the winner in each of the 3 races.

Following the Duck Race a BBQ will be held in the garden of the Brewer’s Arms. Again we thank them for allowing us to host this in their garden.

Please do try and support this event. It is a great day and the children all really enjoy it.

Date for the Diary:

**SUMMER FAYRE – Saturday 1st July at Winterbourne Valley First School**

This is our main fundraiser of the year. Volunteers are needed to help and the success of the events very much depends on them. If you have any ideas or would like to run a stall, please do get in touch.

_Beverley Smith - Chair_

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“Please can you collect Sainsburys Active Kids 2017 vouchers for Winterbourne Valley Primary School and deposit them in the container on the counter in the Martinstown Village Store. With grateful thanks to Karen for allowing us to use the shop as a collection point.

I have collected 345 points at the end of March from the village shop - donations are accepted until 30th June, so do keep collecting on behalf of the local school.”

---

**FILM NIGHT at the BREWERS ARMS**

Film nights at the pub are taking a break for the Summer. Next showing will be on Thursday 28th September 2017. Details will be published here nearer the time.
Following our AGM on the 20th March, Dr. Peter Down gave a superb presentation on Dorset County Museum. He outlined a brief history of the museum which was formed in 1845 by William Barnes and Henry Moule and was originally where Judge Jeffrey’s restaurant now stands. The current Museum was built in 1883 and Moule’s son, Henry, was the first curator. In the mid 1920’s the museum ran into difficulties and Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society now runs the museum as a Charity.

The Natural History Gallery was started in the mid 1900’s and has now become the Hardy Gallery. There is much to attract visitors with the cast iron Victorian Gallery, Roman floors, the Rose Window, a library of 20,000 books, an archaeological gallery, temporary exhibitions and a café. We were shown the impressive plans for the modernisation and extension of the museum which will cost thirteen and a half million pounds, of which 10 million will be funded by the Heritage Lottery and two million by the Trust. Construction of the extended building will hopefully begin in Autumn 2017 and will open at Easter 2020. As an additional major attraction, ‘Dippy the Dinosaur’, from the Natural History Museum in London, will be on show at the Museum later this year.

Dorchester has been chosen as the first museum in the country to launch the tour around Britain of the Diplodocus.

The 25% discount evening at Poundbury Garden Centre was well attended and many plants and accessories were purchased. Geranium plug plants generously donated by the Garden Centre were distributed, so hopefully everyone will grow them on to be entered into the Martinstown Garden & Craft Show on Sunday 20th August.

Our next event will be on Monday 15th May when Ian Williamson will give a presentation on “Trekking in Nepal”. We hope many members will be able to attend and visitors are very welcome at a cost of £3.50.

We still have a few places left on our village outing to Mottisfont (NT) and Romsey on Wednesday June 21st. We leave Martinstown at 9.00am and arrive back at approx 6.45pm. The cost is £16 for National Trust members and £27 for non NT. Please telephone Eileen on 889584 or Angela on 889628 if you would like to come on this outing.

Finally, I would like to welcome Marian Palmer to the Valley Club Committee.

Pat Willetts - Tel. 889597
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*A regularly updated version of this timetable is also available at www.martinstown-news.co.uk*
Recycling, Rubbish & Garden Waste Collection Dates

May 2017

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

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“People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do.” Isaac Asimov

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