# THE V&V MAGAZINE

• MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR •

## DECEMBER 20 • JANUARY 21

**The Valley & Valence Parish Magazine for**

Winterborne St. Martin • Winterbourne Steepleton • Winterbourne Abbas • Compton Valence

# The Brewers Arms

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Leanne, Ben & the pub family welcome you to The Brewers Arm
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NYE: 12 - 3pm as usual • 6 - 10pm dependant on restrictions possibly 12pm!?

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THE V&V MAGAZINE

**The Valley & Valence Parish Magazine for**

Winterborne St. Martin
Winterbourne Steepleton
Winterbourne Abbas
Compton Valence

*"I really hope that you ALL have the best possible Christmas and a healthy New Year"*

Ed.

## NEWS & ARTICLES FOR THE V&V PARISH MAGA

It would be much appreciated if copy is supplied electronically as a text doc. (Microsoft Word etc.) with any accompanying images as JPEG les to the address BELOW.

ALL COPY MUST REACH ME BY 5pm on 15th (LATEST) OF THE PRECEDING MONTH in order to be included in that issue.

## ADVERTISING IN THE V&V PARISH MAGAZINE • Rates ar

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# THOUGHTS FROM THE DESK OF...

## Rev. Jean Saddington

Do I really have to say that this has been an extraordinary year, a year li no other? We've lived through it - we know. Many of us have so far co through this pandemic fairly unscathed by the restrictions – those of us with comfortable homes, enough money to survive, gardens to bring us solace, and who have not lost a loved one to the virus. Others, though, endured their time in lockdown living in high rise ats with young children or are homeless, or have a greatly reduced income - others have lost lo ones. But whichever of the above we fall into, this awful virus will have touched us all in some way. Anxiety, loneliness, uncertainty for the futu being just some of the emotions we have all felt as we try to come to ter with Coronavirus and its consequences.

It's at times like this when we look for hope like never before. Advent an Christmas are seasons of hope as we look to the birth of the Christ child child that brought hope to the world. For some, Christmas is unbounde joy and excitement, for others, it is painful and troubling. However, it is a he moment when we can re ect on the truth that God became a human being; forever to experience our joys and sorrows alongside us.

Perhaps this year, like no other, we will have more time to contemplate t true meaning of Christmas. What can we learn from the shepherds and the wise men, from Joseph and the innkeeper, from the events leading u the manger and stable and the events that followed? The more we look more we'll discover - the full wonder of what God has done and continue do becoming increasingly clear.

So take time this Christmas to stop, to see beyond the fripperies of the season to contemplate what it's really all about. The story of the baby bo a stable in Bethlehem 2000 years ago was, at that time, a message of h for people in real situations in the real world and it still is today for us. Th is why, however this Advent and Christmas nds us, it is a time when we pray a prayer of hope:

Loving God, you know us and all we are facing.

We thank you that we can come to you as we are – with all our fears and concerns, our dif culties and challenges. Bring to us your peace and comfort and ll us with your Spirit that we may be bearers of your grace and hope to others. (an extract from' Prayer for the Nation' - the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.)

May you, and all those you love, nd hope and peace in the season of A and joy this Christmas

Jean
Team Vicar

Sunday, 6th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 | Worship Together | Winterbourne Abbas |
| 10.00 | Zoom Service | |
| 11.00 | Holy Communion | Martinstown |

Sunday, 13th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 09.30 | Holy Communion | Compton Valence |
| 10.00 | Zoom Service | |
| 11.00 | Holy Communion | Winterbourne Steepleton |

Sunday, 20th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 | Worship Together | Winterbourne Abbas |
| 10.00 | Zoom Service | |
| 11.00 | Holy Communion | Martinstown |

Tuesday 22nd December

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 pm – 4.30 pm | Drop in Crib Service | Winterbourne Abbas |
| 5.30 pm – 7 pm | Drop in Carol Service | Winterbourne Abbas |

Christmas Eve

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 pm | Outside Nativity | Martinstown Churchyard |
| 11 pm | Zoom Service | |

Christmas Day

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.30 | Holy Communion | Compton Valence |
| 11.00 | Family Service | Martinstown |

Sunday, 27th December – 1st Sunday of Christmas

| | |
|---|---|
| 10.00 | Zoom Service |

## Christmas Celebrations at Winterbourne Abbas

22nd December 2020

We are celebrating Christmas in a very different joyfulled way. Finding new ways of things while keeping the traditions alive.

We are having an afternoon/evening of drop in services on 22nd December
Crib Service Drop In 3.30 till 5pm.

We ask you to dress up if you wish, bring a gift for the Baby Jesus- a painted stone, a card, flowers or you can think of. We will give you a light that you can give him.

We will also be showing a rolling animated film of the nativity. Carols will be playing but we cannot

Children, if they wish, can sit together in the front pews while over 11yr olds will need to sit with their or bubbles in the other pews.

There will be just 3 families bubbles at a time- so you may have to wait.
Carol service Drop In 6pm till 7.30

Candle light, Christmas poetry, Carols, Christmas readings. A rolling service full of joy, reflection and 4 families or bubbles will be able to

## CHURCH CALENDAR JANUARY 2021

Sunday, 3rd January – Epiphany

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 | Worship Together | Winterbourne Abbas |
| 10.00 | Zoom Service | |
| 11.00 | Holy Communion | Martinstown |

Sunday, 10th January – Baptism of Christ

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.30 | Holy Communion | Compton Valence |
| 10.00 | Zoom Service | |
| 11.00 | Holly Communion | Winterbourne Steepleton |

Sunday, 17th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 | Worship Together | Winterbourne Abbas |
| 10.00 | Zoom Service | |
| 11.00 | Holy Communion | Martinstown |

Sunday, 24th January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 | Zoom Service | |
| 11.00 | Worship Together | Martinstown |

Sunday, 31st January – Candlemas

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 | Zoom Service | |
| 11.00 | Holy Communion | Martinstown |

## The Parishes of The Winterbournes & Compton Valence

TEAM RECTOR
Vacancy

TEAM VICAR
Rev'd Jean Saddington (01305 889992)

ASSOCIATE PRIEST
Rev'd Jo Lacy-Smith (01305 889476)

Available on: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Sundays
On other days please contact one of the Church Wardens for all parish matters.

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 reta
own local church committee.

Churchwardens – Dick Corbett-Winder (889410), Ellie Sturrock (07980 089470),
Joy Parsons (889611), Roddy Kilpatrick (889238)
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 vis
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
involved is assured.

# CHRISTMAS IS NOT CANCELLED!

Everyone is wondering what Christmas will be like this year - no carols in church, Christma markets and fairs cancelled, meeting up with family and friends prohibited and maybe even Christmas's elves furloughed. It is time we took back a little bit of the Christmas spirit and usually experienced in Martinstown and on that note read on...

## A Village Windows Advent Calendar Trail

Scattered through the village are twenty-four villagers who are going to decorate a window in their home for Advent. Each day, from the 1st December, a new window will be revealed - the twenty fourth and nal window can be found at St Martin's church. Once opened, each window will stay on show until 28th December. Look out for these festive offerings throughout the month, maybe take your COVID-19 exercise walk each day to nd and view the newest window. I hope the effort and care that has been taken by participants will bring festive fun and make you smile!

(Please see the attached list of window numbers next to their location.)

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## A Pantomime Scarecrow Trail

Although all the windows are now taken, there is still time for you to make a scarecrow of one of your favourite panto characters and display it in your garden from the 12th to the 19th December. I am imagining adults and children alike enjoying a Christmassy stroll through the village to spot these amboyant characters. Every household that makes a scarecrow will be entered into a small Christmas draw. Do please get in touch and let me know your name and location if you wish to take part, that way we can put up a few scarecrow trail maps around the village for people to photograph and follow.

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## Crisis at Christmas

Both ideas are possible to implement whilst social distancing and might brighten the mood in the run up to Christmas. If you like our efforts, I am hoping that you might put a donation into a collection box in aid of the homeless charity, Crisis at Christmas. The box will be found in Martinstown Village Shop and Post Of ce – it would be wonderful if at the same time as we spread some cheer in our own village, we could also extend a helping hand to the needy by paying fo a few Christmas dinners and a bed for the night.

Your support is needed to achieve this so with that in mind, I send thanks to all those who have already agreed to take part and thanks to everyone in anticipation of your support in our endeavours.

Wishing you all a Christmas lled with peace, joy and contentment and a happy and healthy New Year.

Sally Webb • 889097

Advent Calendar Windows can be found at the following addresses:

1. Old Brewery House
2. The Laurels
3. Fair eld
4. 1 Burnside
5. 3 Hardy Close
6. Old Cottage
7. April Cottage, 1 The Terrace
8. St Martin's House
9. Linden Lea
10. 4 Manor Farm Court
11. 32 Cowleaze
12. 10 The Terrace
13. Stevens Farmhouse
14. Maltster's Cottage
15. 2 Cowleaze
16. The Village Hall
17. 34 Cowleaze
18. 9 The Terrace
19. Laurel Cottage, 4 Hope Terrace
20. 27 Grove Cottage
21. 10 Manor Grove
22. Willow Bank, 1 Manor Grove
23. Park Farm
24. St Martin's Church

# Wall Hanging 2000 - Some Reminiscences

Christine Gibs

The start of a new millennium. This was awesome to contemplate. There were the usual prophets of doom who said the world would end, the communication systems would collapse. But it was felt that this New Year should be celebrated and commemorated like no other ordinary New Year. In Martinstown there was a bon re in the eld behind the Church. We held a big dinner party, all ages, then went up through the Churchyard to join in.

However I felt that something more lasting was needed, maybe a piece of needlework to hang in the Church. It so happened that I was talking to Rev. Maurice Strike at a lovely party out at Muston Manor, and mentioned my idea to mark the millennium. He was full of enthusiasm. Before he was ordained he worked in the West End as artistic director for a number of big musicals. It was his idea to depict many buildings in Martinstown, old and new, large and small. That was all I needed!

A rst meeting was held, there was very enthusiastic response from young and old. My idea was to show any building in the village, with the Church at the centre and showing part of the stream. We met rst on 6 April at 3 Hardy Close. Everyone would depict the buildin of their choice, to be appliqued onto the background canvas. As you can see they were all done to a diffe scale! They were copied from photographs or drawi done by Geraldine Canniford. We learnt how to mak motif to applique, both Vicky Finding and Kirsten Co had wonderful sources of fabrics and embroidery threads. I went to Peter Jones in Sloane Square and spent all of £21.89 on background canvas and green fabric for the frame. The background canvas was very artistically painted by Vicky and Kirsten, then we suspended it from a pole and it was kept in a spare room.

Our meetings were about every 3 weeks, and membe were encouraged to bring a show whatever they had don maybe to inspire others or to be helped on the next step. It was important to keep up the interest and momentum. It wa a very happy joint effort. Nothi was rejected. Every piece of work done was put on th wall hanging.

Once all the larger pieces were positioned and sewn on, we then had to work on all the embroidery to be done directly onto the canvas, all the daffodils and the delightful little scene of the children round the maypole We sewed on ocks of sheep, made by Margaret Ashworth, the green bus with its hourly service to Dorchester, the stream and king sher, a nice tractor, two baskets of owers, sun owers - nothing was rejected or left off. There was then the large task of backing and mounting it. The stitching of the lettering, top and bottom, again appliqued and outlined with gold thread was done by Geraldine and me. It was al nished by the end of 2000.

Eventually it was hung by my husband, Ian Gibson ar positioned in the North Aisle of St Martin's Church. It was dedicated on 28th April by Rev Rosemary Basse We had a celebration, 'Pot Luck' supper for all those involved - 23 people, and their husbands which was memorable. The talk then was "What can we do next? But that's another story!

MARTINSTOWN VILLAGE HALL

# Regular Groups

## MONDAY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Baby & Toddler Group | 10.00am - 12noon | Contact: Claire Benson - Tel: 07859 849094 |
| Beavers, Cubs & Scouts | 5.30pm - 7.30pm | Contact: Sue Gower - Tel: 01305 889388 |
| Valley Club (3rd Monday in month) | 7.30pm - 10.00pm | Contact: Pat Willets - Tel: 01305 568458 |

## TUESDAY

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

## WEDNESDAY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chair-based Exercise | 11.15am - 12.30pm | Contact: Suzanne Fellows-Joyce - Tel: 01308 281882 |
| W.I. (2nd Wednesday in month) | 6.45pm - 9.00pm | Contact: Rosie Duke - Tel: 01305 889555 |
| Beginners Dance | 8.00pm - 10.00pm | Contact: Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248 |

## THURSDAY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Art Group | 10.00pm - 1.00pm | Contact: Teresa Blades - Tel: 01305 889947 |
| Dance Group | 2.30pm - 4.30pm | Contact: Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248 |
| Yoga | 6.00pm - 7.30pm | Contact: Gemma - Tel: 07821 593314 |

## FRIDAY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Keep Fit Class | 10.15am - 11.30am | Contact: Suzanne Fellows-Joyce - Tel: 01308 281882 |
| Bingo (Every other Friday) | 7.00pm - 9.30pm | Contact: Ann Matthews - Tel: 01305 889248 |

For BOOKING information, contact: Ann Matthews – Tel: 889248 or email: ronann.matthews@btinternet.com

THIS MONTH'S NEWS FR

# Martinstown Women's Institute

It was really good to see so many at our November WI meeting on Zoom when I Wilkinson demonstrated an easy 5 pointed star Christmas decoration using Origa We all enjoyed having a go.

We will be making our annual Christmas collection for "You First" (Dorchester Women's Refuge). Our support is needed more than ever this year and they have requested warm socks and slippers, shampoo and conditioner, in addition to basic toiletries (all in small sizes please). Celia Benson has kindly offered to provide a collecting bin at The Laurels. Gifts from anyone in the village would be very welcome before 9th December.

Our "Christmas Zoom Party" will be held on Wednesday 9th December – Christmas jumpers, etc. to be worn!

We meet again on Wednesday 13th January 2021 when we will be discussing the proposed resolutions to be voted on at the National Federation Annual meeting. Th 2020 meeting was cancelled but the Royal Albert Hall ha been booked for 19th April 2021 and it is very much hope that the 2021 Annual Meeting will go ahead.

Martinstown WI would like to send you all very best wishes for Christmas and we look forward to a brighter New Year when we can all meet again.

Angela Barrett - Secretary

Bob Wilkins asked me to THANK everyone for raising £278.27 via the poppies in the shop. Karen Barrett

# MARTINSTOWN VILLAGE STORE

Shop & POST OFFICE
Opening Times
MON-FRI: 8am to 5.30pm
WEDS: 8am to 2.00pm
SAT: 8.30am to 4.00pm
SUN: 9.30am to 12.30pm

Closed for lunch Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 2pm to 3pm

## Christmas is nearly here!

Just to remind you that I can order fresh meat, vegetables, bread and cream that you may need for the festive season. Plus I'm stocking various gift ideas, treats and cards.

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Best Wishes - Karen Barrett

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# The MILEATERS out and about...

...the last walk before Lockdown 2 by Stuart Nuttall

"T'was the night before lockdown and all through the village,

Not a thing was stirring not even the silage."

Not true!

In fact thirteen bold mileaters were stirring their limbs for a night hike to the ridgeway pat and what a glorious wal it turned out to be.

We met on the green under moonlight (and some head torches) and quietly animated, plotted our way up Groves Hill, through the wood and along past the tumuli to the ridgeway path. It was a walk familiar to most although the darkness added an element of suspense and adventure.

The multi coloured lights of Portland and the brightly l ships in the bay provided a tting backdrop to moving poems read by Cathie and Stuart.

It was such a lovely night that we didn't want to leave this special time and place but we did of course, how else could I be writing this! In some way the walk seemed a tting tribute to our solidarity as we enter another period of isolation.

Many thanks to all those who made it such a memorable night.

# VALLEY VIEWS

It has certainly been a year of cancellations but it was a real boost to attend, along with many other socially- distanced people, the Remembrance Sunday Service on Martinstown Green on 8th November. Despite not being able to hold it in the Church and with no audience participation, the service was expertly organised and delivered. Congratulations to all those involved, giving us a tting service which will be remembered long into the future.

Events for 2021 are still not settled, as we don't know when the Village Hall will be open again and we can resume our meetings. We are hoping many of the talks cancelled from this year will be able to be rebooked for 2021, but that will of course be subject to the Government restrictions and the availability of the speakers. Hopefully our rst event, either in January or February, will be a Fish Chip Supper in the Village Hall, and we are planni to hold our AGM in March. We will let you know in early January if we are able to resume meetings.

Many thanks to Graham for keeping us informed via a virtual copy of V&V and for managing to deliver a paper copy to us all in time for Christmas. On behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and, whether you are spending it with family or friends, hope that you keep safe and well. Perhaps we can all look forward to a much more settled 2021.

Take care everyone.

Pat Willetts - Tel. 568458

# Martinstown Village Hall

I took over as chair of the managing committee of trustees of the Village Hall – a small, hard working and unsel sh group of community-minded volunteers – in April 2019 and all jogged along pretty smoothly for nearly a year.

Our regular groups met and enjoyed their various activities in our airy and often sunny hall; jumble sales, suppers and quizzes were organised and funds for various good causes raised; special events came and went - Open Gardens, Martinstown Players, Artsreach, Harvest Supper, Christmas lunch – the usual pattern of the Hall's year. A stalwart band of helpful folk, many of them not on the committee, set to and played their part in the continuing cycle of maintenance and upkeep.

And then came March, and lockdown.

The daily rhythm of the Hall changed. The playground fell silent and a large padlock was deployed. We managed to carry on with some of the planned jobs, but the only regular activity was the ushing of the loos and the running of the taps, on the advice of Wessex Water. An unusual calm, quiet stillness became the 'new normal'.

The re-opening of the playground was a good day – I wonder how many residents realise that the Hall, through its trustees, is responsible for and pays for the upkeep of the playground – and heralded the start of planning for wider re-opening. This entailed much poring over Government regulations and guidelines, socially-distanced meetings to discuss where to site hand sanitisers, how to manage pinch points and much much more, and resulted in the preparation of detailed risk assessments. We had a couple of small-scale trial runs, and then in September, we were delighted to welcome back many of our regular users. We were very proud to be the first venue in Dorset to host an indoor, Covid-secure Artsreach event (and wonderful it was too – Craig Johnson, aka Squashbox Theatre is the perfect antidote to coronavirus blues).

Our returning groups have been amazing! They have been asked to follow all sorts of new rules, to take extra precautions, to clean after their hire, to bring their own refreshments because the kitchen is closed – all of which they've done cheerfully and with great diligence. We are so grateful to them for their help.

As I write this, we are in the midst of lockdown 2 and the Hall is again closed (though we are allowed to have the playground open, thank goodness). The loo- ushing and tap-running are again the only regular activities. However, we plan to re-open as soon as we can, before Christmas, we hope (though only to our regular groups for the time being) and as we move into 2021, like everyone else, we are looking forward to a return to something like normality; to welcoming back our other groups and we hope some new ones, to the children's parties, the community meetings and social gatherings, the whole kaleidoscope of events that weave through the days and weeks to enrich the lives of Valley residents and the wider community.

We're looking forward to seeing you all!

Introducing...

# Green Martinstown

Over the past decades, and increasingly in the last few years, we have heard much about climate change. From doom merchants to deniers, the subject has become a major issue we cannot ignore. Yet, as individuals, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the amount of information available and confused about how to get involved.

This is where Green Martinstown can help. Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the action of individuals can have far reaching effects. By tackling issues close to home, we aim to provide opportunities for both adults and children, to 'do' something locally, combining our efforts with other local communities to increase our impact.

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Green Martinstown Aims and Guidelines

- To help Martinstown become more sustainable – leading ultimately to carbon neutrality.
- A non-political, non-confrontational group, where every voice is heard and respected.
- Open to all Martinstown residents, young and older, singletons and families.
- Recognise human activity is contributing to major climate change.
- Focus less on threats of climate change and more on the benefits of taking action.

Questionnaires were distributed to each household in Martinstown, with the aim to draw on the knowledge, experience and skills of residents.
From this, a liaison team and 3 working groups have been set up - Nature, Energy & Transport and Food & Waste, who are looking at various ideas.

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Nature

Identify possible nature sites.
St Martins field Triangle, a small wild flower meadow.
Village Green, a row of fruit trees, flower beds.
Road verges - areas for rewilding and wild flower meadows.
Churchyard - wild flower seeds added to existing wild area.
Existing church compost heap extended into a communal facility.
Village Hall - apple and a pear tree to be planted.
South Winterbourne water quality tests show high levels of nitrates - solutions needed.
Phone Box - seed swap facility?

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Food and Waste

Use of local land to grow vegetables.
Bulk buying, grains, flour, lentils, nuts locally - supporting the shop.
Spare fruit and vegetables grown by villagers - sell in the shop or donate to food bank.
Plastic reduction.
Recycling and food waste.
Extending allotments.
Waste watch scheme.

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Energy and transport

Siting solar panels.
Proposals for Monkey Jump roundabout.
Dorset Council's proposals for use of Emergency Activ
Travel Funds, including improving cycle/walking routes to Dorchester.
Dorset Community Energy Group projects for renewable energy on public buildings.
Traffic calming measures - siting visuals at the entrances to the village plus indicating the aspiration for a green/carbon neutral Martinstown.
Audit of the village with regards to carbon usage.
Information on the Green Energy Grant scheme.
Tips on energy saving.

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Miscellaneous ideas:

A 'green village' competition.
Children's competitions.
Representative from Green Martinstown to attend meeting of the newly formed Dorset Action on Climate Change.

Please join us to make Martinstown Green!

Follow us on:
www.martinstown-news.co.uk/clubs-societies/green-martinstown

Contact us:
Colin Tracy on:
01305 889476 or 07874 910877
colintracy66@gmail.com
greenmartinstown@gmail.com

# The Good Old Days...

David Haslam

It's been quite a year. Certainly not the one we expected, and de nitely not the one we wanted. At this time of year we look forward hopefully, and look back wistfully, praying for a better future, and lamenting the passing of the "good old days".

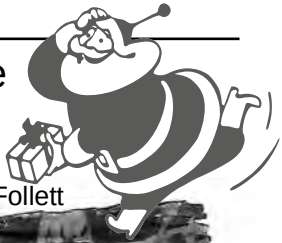
I've never been entirely convinced about the goodness of the good old days. When you are living through them, no-one sees them as being golden – more likely we just experience a selection of events and miscellaneous crises, some large, some small. Maybe nostalgia is just a near-inevitable side-effect of ageing, an experience for those who haven't yet worked out that today's reality will be tomorrow's nostalgia.

Despite the challenges of 2020, so many things have improved over the course of my life, things that I wouldn't wish to return to, even if I could. These vary from the distinctly trivial – the astonishing developments in recorded sound that mean I have 20,000 music tracks on my phone, with another in nite supply always available on Spotify – all the way through to the really trivial. Just recall how appalling shop-bought sandwiches were just a few decades ago, or how unimaginative the grub you could get in a pub always seemed to be. Some things really do improve.

Recalling my student days working on the Christmas post, I look back with fond nostalgia to a postal service that guaranteed next day delivery for a very few pence, and with two deliveries most days – and then I realise it has been supplanted by email that arrives anywhere in the world almost instantly, at virtually zero cost.

I look at the web-based technology that has saved so much of our sanity this year. For those who have access to it, video calls – Zoom, FaceTime and the rest – have made the potentially intolerable much more bearable. This was very obviously never there in earlier pandemics. It's made a real difference this time.

So how will we look back on 2020? With appalled fascination, or with a degree of warm nostalgia? Perhaps you think I'm being facetious. Wo War 2's Blitz Spirit is now talked about with nostalgia, with folksy memories about how great people were, an the enviable warmth of community. I am pretty certain that no-one had any positive feelings for it at the time, when life and property were under constant threat. And so one day, might we look back on those Thursda evenings in 2020 when we all stood outside our front doors, smiled and waved at our neighbours, and clapp for the NHS? Who knows? Memory certainly plays ve real tricks.



## Christmas Tie Advert from 1950's

sent in by Deborah Follett

You wouldn't have washed your Christmas tie before

'Terylene' has changed all that!

This Christmas, hope and hint that the ties you get are 'Terylene'. Explain that you've always wanted a tie you can actually wash yourself, that won't lose its shape, that doesn't need ironing. Mention that 'Terylene' ties last for donkey's years, looking as hand-some as they did on Christmas morning. Draw attention to the fact that they're so varied they give wide scope for individual choice, and work in, if you can, the delicate fact that they come in every price range, to suit hard-up children or affluent friends. Good luck, and all the *terylenity* of the season!

'Terylene' is the trade mark for the polyester fibre made by IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED, LONDON

# Our SECOND lockdown...

Fran Taylor

Unlike the rst - this time we don't have the ne weather and the extended summer evenings when I could sit outside my back door and chat to passing dog walkers, friends and neighbours. I could happily share a bottle of wine without worrying about breaking those all-important rules.

Now it's different! The days are shorter and often wet and windy, so as the evenings draw in we all disappear and now my thoughts turn to what to do to occupy those long days.

I know there are many creative villagers out there. Some do amazing things with needle and threads, Not for me! I can barely thread a needle. Knitting? No, I still haven't nished the baby jumper for son Tom, started all those years ago and now he's nearly 50! Cooking? Not much fun for one and I certainly wouldn't attempt to create a pudding. My 'Community Lunch' contribution of a muesli pudding has never been forgotten!

So what can I do to erase the boredom?

WRITING! I enjoy being creative with the written word

So, this is my plan. Instead of me scratching my head every month pondering "what can I write about for our valley magazine", I have chosen you.

I know there are poets and ction writers, (young and old) out there, so this is the challenge!

My idea is that if you feel moved to write a short story a poem, a personal account, or thoughts and feelings about being in lockdown - then write it down and send it to me. I will then collate them and create an anthology which I hope will be published.

In addition, I would hope to have one of your stories or poems published in our magazine, each month, for all to read!

So come on all writers and poets any age, get scribbling, and send to me at:
francestaylor1945@gmail.com

## CHRISTMAS EVE...

In more normal times, we would be holding a crib service in the church on Christmas Eve. As we're unable to do that this year, we'll be playing live music appropriate to the season outside the church for an hour from 3p.m. Come along and join us to get in the mood for the next day's festivities!

## Recycling, Rubbish & Garden Waste Collection Dates

### December 2020

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3rd (Thursday) | - recycling and food | 10th (Thursday) | - rubbish and food |
| 17th (Thursday) | - recycling and food | 24th (Saturday) | - rubbish and food |
| 9th (Weds) | - garden waste | 23rd (Weds) | - garden waste |

### January 2021

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2nd (Saturday) | - recycling and food | 8th (Friday) | - rubbish and food |
| 14th (Thursday) | - recycling and food | 21st (Thursday) | - rubbish and food |
| 28th (Thursday) | - recycling and food | | |
| | | 20th (Weds) | - garden waste |

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

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# Rendezvous.

...a short story by Vince

The sultry air hangs heavy with jasmine. Cicadas are watching from inside the blackness of the forest night. The storm has passed and the palm leaves hang lifeless, dripping.

The tin roofed bungalow nestles at the end of the overgrown path in a tight clearing. A faint light from an open window throws pale slatted shadows across a peeling wooden veranda.

The faint crackle from a gramophone drifts from beyond the half opened shuttered door.

Leaving the path I step hesitantly up the three steps onto the veranda, and crossing, gently push the door.

Inside, a dimly lit, wooden oored room is full of heavy shadows. A ceiling fan turns, endlessly, squeaking quietly.

The gramophone record crackles on, from somewhere in the shadows.

In the centre of the cluttered room are two wicker chairs and a small table set with two glass tumblers. Half full and cloudy.

Cigarette smoke snakes into the room, lling the still air. A oorboard creaks somewhere.

The music stops, the needle clicking, clicking, clicking. Trapped.

I step inside. The door swings slowly behind me.

I catch a movement in the shadows. Another oorboard creaks.

Somewhere, in the darkness beyond the half-light, a clock chimes eight thirty.

## – USEFUL CONTACT ADDRESSES & PHONE NUM

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

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

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service
Emergency: 999 • Non-emergency: 01722 691000

Dorset 'Out of Hours' Medical Service
Tel: 0845 600 1013

Bus Timetables
Tel: First 0333 014 3490 • www. rstgroup.com

Train Timetables
Tel: South Western Railway 0345 6000 650
Web: www.southwesternrailway.com

Electricity Emergencies
Tel: 0800 072 7282

TO REPORT A POWERCUT
Tel: FREEFONE 105
www.powercut105.com

Gas Emergencies
Tel: 0800 111999

Drains/Water Emergencies
Tel: 0845 7300600

Flooding Enquiries
Local Flood Warden (S.Slade) Tel: 01305 8894
Environmental Agency Tel: 0800 807060

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

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

Plaza Cinema
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