



*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 24

The Valley & Valence Parish Magazine for
 Winterborne St. Martin • Winterbourne Steepleton • Winterbourne Abbas • Compton Valence





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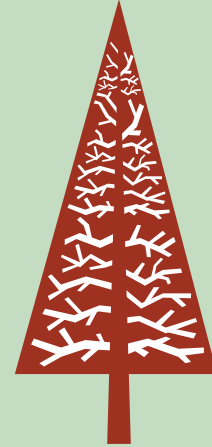




DECEMBER 23
JANUARY 24

**The Valley & Valence
Parish Magazine for**

Winterborne St. Martin
Winterbourne Steepleton
Winterbourne Abbas
Compton Valence



NEWS & ARTICLES FOR THE V&V PARISH MAGAZINE

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 5pm on 15th (LATEST) OF THE PRECEDING MONTH
in order to be included in that issue.

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Tel: **01305 889786** or email: **info@valleyandvalence.co.uk**





THOUGHTS FROM THE DESK OF...

Revd. Keith Magee



For some people, Christmas starts as soon as Hallowe'en is over with the decoration of homes and buying of presents. Supermarkets and other stores have been selling Christmas themed goods from well before that. By the time Christmas Day actually arrives, it can be a bit of an anticlimax with people not quite sure what the celebration is all about.

In church we start with the season of Advent which this year starts on the first Sunday of December. On each Sunday we focus on a different theme that leads up to Christmas Day itself. We start with looking at the contribution of the Patriarchs such as Abraham and then the prophets such as Isaiah. We then look at the role of John the Baptist and then on the final Sunday of Advent, the role of Mary, the mother of Jesus. We are then ready to celebrate the wonderful feast of Christmas.

At Christmas we celebrate our creator God coming into our world as a vulnerable human baby, born in the stable of an inn to humble parents. It was an event that was acknowledged by a group of shepherds who were startled enough by the appearance of a choir of angels to venture into town to behold this amazing yet surreal happening.

But why did all this happen? St John records the words of Jesus when he says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." God, who created the the earth, the heavens and all that is in them, wanted to restore the relationship between God and humankind. Having tried various different things throughout the previous centuries, coming to earth in human form was that final attempt. But to do it in such a risky way shows how important it was to God and how much God loved us. That's what we celebrate at Christmas.

After Christmas as we go through January, we celebrate the season of Epiphany when we see Jesus being revealed to the wise men and being presented in the temple as he begins the journey towards his public ministry. We too are called to reveal the life of Christ through how we live, love and care for each other, using the life of Jesus as our example.

I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas.

Revd. Keith Magee





The Parishes of the Winterbournes & Compton Valence

Team Rector – Rev'd Keith Magee (07766 645135)

The Winterbournes and Compton Valence Ministry Team

Team Vicar – Vacancy (please contact one of the Church Wardens for all parish matters)

Associate Priest – Rev'd Jo Lacy-Smith (01305 889476)

Licensed Lay Minister – Allen Knott (01305 267217)

Permission to Officiate – Peter Wilkinson (01305 889077)

Organists

Nigel Power – Martinstown (01305 889910)

Peter Wilkinson – Winterbourne Steepleton (01305 889077)

Laurie Reading – for music at Winterbourne Abbas (01305 889693)

For Compton Valence please contact the Church Wardens

The Parish of the Winterbournes

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

Churchwardens – **Dick Corbett-Winder** (889410), **Ellie Sturrock** (07980 089470),
David & Joy Parsons (889611)

PCC Hon. Secretary – **John Crawford** (01305 889377)

PCC Hon. Treasurer – **Tom Webb** (01305 889097)

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.

Join us at Messy Church
St. Mary's Church
Winterbourne Abbas

First Tuesday of the month.
4th December
3- 5pm


MESSY CHURCH

messy activities
games
songs stories
and supper

Free

Meditation @ Steepleton Church

*Beginners welcome
Practiced meditators welcome
The curious welcome*



7pm till 8.30 pm
weekly on Wednesdays
Jo Lacy Smith
889476 or 07841776759





CHURCH SERVICES during...

DEC 23 - JAN 24

SUNDAY 3RD

1ST OF ADVENT

10.00
11.00

Holy Communion – Winterbourne Abbas
Holy Communion – Martinstown

SUNDAY 10TH

2ND OF ADVENT

08.00
09.30
11.00

Holy Communion (BCP) – Martinstown
Holy Communion – Compton Valence
Holy Communion – Winterbourne Steepleton

SUNDAY 17TH

3RD OF ADVENT

10.00
11.00
18.00

Worship Together – Winterbourne Abbas
Morning Prayer – Martinstown
Carol Service – Martinstown

MONDAY 18TH

18.30 Carol Service – Compton Valence

TUESDAY 19TH

19.00 Carol Service – Winterbourne Abbas

THURSDAY 21ST

18.00 Carol Service – Winterbourne Steepleton

SUNDAY 24TH

CHRISTMAS EVE / 4TH OF ADVENT

11.00
15.00
16.00
23.00

Holy Communion – Martinstown
Family Nativity – Winterbourne Abbas
Crib Service – Martinstown
Midnight Communion – Winterbourne Steepleton

MONDAY 25TH

CHRISTMAS DAY

09.30
11.00

Holy Communion – Compton Valence
Worship Together – Martinstown

SUNDAY 31ST

1ST OF CHRISTMAS

11.00

Worship Together – Martinstown

SUNDAY 7TH

EPIPHANY

10.00
11.00

Holy Communion – Winterbourne Abbas
Holy Communion – Martinstown

SUNDAY 14TH

2ND OF EPIPHANY

08.00
09.30
11.00

Holy Communion (BCP) – Martinstown
Holy Communion – Compton Valence
Holy Communion – Winterbourne Steepleton

SUNDAY 21ST

3RD OF EPIPHANY

10.00
11.00
17.00

Holy Communion – Winterbourne Abbas
Morning Prayer – Martinstown
Church@5 – Martinstown

SUNDAY 28TH

4TH OF EPIPHANY

11.00

Worship Together – Martinstown



Find us on Facebook

Did you know that the 3 churches in the Winterbournes Parish are now on Facebook?
You can 'like' and 'follow' for news and photos from St Michael's, St Mary's and St Martin's.





MARTINSTOWN VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB DRAW

MARTINSTOWN **NOVEMBER 2023**

£25. Katie Wilkinson
£10. Margaret Ashworth
£5. Lynne Axford

COMPTON VALENCE **NOVEMBER 2023**

£25. Chris Roberts
£10. The Buckland Family
£5. Tessa Russell

What is green, covered in Christmas lights and Christmas bulbs, and goes ribbit?

A mistle-toad.

TABLET BLISTER PACK COLLECTION (outside the village shop)

Sadly the collection of empty tablet blister packs in a dustbin outside the village shop has had to be withdrawn.

Unfortunately, Superdrug will no longer accept these empty packs. They say it is costing the company too much in transportation, storage & disposal costs!

I was initially told by Superdrug that small "personal" quantities of empty blister packs would still be accepted, but it appears this is now not the case and the box by the pharmacy counter has been taken away, with signs up saying none can now be left for recycling.

I have found it staggering how many empty tablet packs the village (& surrounding areas) "produces" each week. From just an occasional visit into Dorchester with a small bag, it had grown phenomenally into a huge plastic sack almost every week (equivalent to 2 full dustbins!!).

Personally I believe the pharmaceutical companies have got to address this issue, with so many of these empty packs going into landfill. What was wrong with the old-fashioned plastic bottles we used to get all our tablets in...? They, at least, can be recycled! Or, more importantly, should the pharmaceutical companies accept the return of all empty tablet packs in every pharmacy and be responsible for transporting & recycling them?

With much regret that we are adding to landfill now -
Di Tilsley (The Merchant of St Martin & Green Martinstown)





Reg Ch No 1137996

Quiet Christmas

at United Church Dorchester

Friday 15th December **at 3pm**

(30 minute service)
followed by Christmas refreshments
in the church



Ideal for those who want to celebrate Christmas quietly, but joyfully

Everyone welcome





The Merchant of St Martin - so much more than a shop.

What to buy!?

Firstly, a BIG "Thank you!" It seems our plea for people to use the shop more, has resulted in an increased response, hopefully reflecting how important The Merchant is for residents, on various levels, whether shopping, socialising, or both. Please, don't sit back, though, we still need to increase the footfall!!!

You can help us by talking about your positive experiences with friends, family, and any visiting guests. We've had many appreciative comments from people around the area, and on holiday, about our range of goods, wishing their small local shops offered the same interesting variety.

So how does our stock selection work? Over the past 1.5 years, we've built-up a list of 62 (!) suppliers. This is unsustainable for a small business, so we're introducing some changes, less suppliers, but still good quality.

Those who shop with us know we like to offer a large range of essential products we all need daily. We also have an increasing demand for 'grab and go' snacks in the mornings and for lunch. This is when our daily change of bakery goodies come into play.

Of course, we cannot compete with Tesco's or Lidl's of this world, who have mass purchasing power. Instead, we choose and pick to find a balance between good quality, yet still affordable stock, mixed-in with some treats.

We also like supporting local, organic, and ethical products from small producers. Look out over the next weeks in the shop, where we will share some details about our suppliers and producers.

If you have any constructive (!) feedback regarding our stock or services, please let us know.

Keith and Michaela





T H I S M O N T H ' S N E W S F R O M

Martinstown Women's Institute

In November Stuart Nuttall showed us his film about the fascinating stories of the history of our parish churches – some in Dorset well known to us such as Tyneham and St Catherine's Chapel at Abbotsbury. We were particularly interested to see the beautiful stained glass windows in the church at East Chinnock in Somerset. These were donated by a German prisoner of war who had worked on a nearby farm, in gratitude for the kindness he had received from villagers.

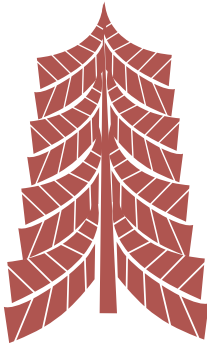
Next month we celebrate the 75th Birthday of the WI in Martinstown. We will be combining this with our Christmas celebrations at a Tea Party on Wednesday 13th December at 4 pm in the village hall. This will include the unveiling of our new banner which has been worked on by a skilled group of embroiderers and crafters over many months.

The Village Outing this year will be to the beautiful RHS Garden at Rosemoor in Devon on Thursday, 20th June. This is for WI, Valley Club members and anyone from the village, all welcome to join us. Full details will be in the next issue of this magazine but please save the date in your new 2024 calendars.

Our meeting in January will be on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 2.30 pm when we will be discussing and voting on the NFWI resolutions.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and New Year from us all in Martinstown WI.

Angela Barrett - Secretary



Martinstown Charity Christmas Fair & Coffee Morning

Saturday 2nd December 2023

10am—12pm

Martinstown Village Hall

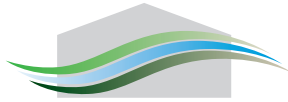


Games
Tombola
Gift stalls
Raffle

This year we are raising money for the
'Dorchester Opportunities Group'

Crafts
Refreshments
Cake stall
Bric a Brac





MARTINSTOWN VILLAGE HALL Regular Group Meetings

MONDAY

Martinstown Playgroup	10 - 12 noon	Louisa Shephard - 07585622699
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Sue Gower - 01305 889388
Monday Meeting	2:00 - 3:00 pm	Anne Tate - 01305 889506
WI Garden Club (1st Monday in month)	3:30 - 4:30 pm	Anne Tate - 01305 889506
Valley Club (3rd Monday in month)	7:45 - 10 pm	Ange Schulke - 07788858935

TUESDAY

Botanical Art (term times only)	9:30 - 12:30 pm	Pat Allen - 01308 862063
Sequence Dance Group	2:30 - 4:40 pm	Ann Matthews - 01305 889248
Badminton	7:30 - 9:30 pm	Juliet Rose - 07969292973

WEDNESDAY

Chair Based Exercise	10:30 - 11:30 am	Suzanne Fellows-Joyce - 01308 281882
W.I. (2nd Wednesday in month)	6:45 - 9:00 pm	Rosie Duke - 01305 889555
Beginners' Dance	8:00 - 10:00 pm	Ann Matthews - 01305 889248

THURSDAY

Poundbury Art Group	10:00 - 1:00 pm	Teresa Blades - 01305 889947
Sequence Dance Group	2:30 - 4:30 pm	Ann Matthews - 01305 889248
Yoga	6:00 - 7:30 pm	Gemma O'Beirne - 07821593314

FRIDAY

Keep Fit class	10:15 - 11:45 am	Suzanne Fellows-Joyce - 01308 281882
Bingo (every other Friday)	7:00 - 9:30 pm	Ann Matthews - 01305 889248

Chairperson - Jan Griffiths - 01305 889738
 Bookings - Ann Matthews - 01305 889248
 or email ronann.matthews@btinternet.com





NEWS

DEC 23–JAN 24

As I draft this is a time of reflection, both for those of us who have served in the Armed Forces, or had a partner or relative who has, but also for the Parish Council as we reflect on the year past and plan for the one ahead. The current task is preparing our budget for the coming year, which in turn leads to the requirement for a precept which is the money that you pay that enables us to function. Those who attended the Annual Parish Meeting will know that I raised the related question of "why have a Parish Council if it costs us money"? By my reading of the Local Government Act we have no choice, but you (at least the Electors amongst you) do have the ability to influence whether you wish to retain an independent Council or would wish to see us group with other local Councils. However, as I started this commentary with money, I think it worth pointing out that the precept in all local Grouped Councils is considerably higher than ours, and I think it reasonable to assume that these Groups have more money to spend but are not as focussed as one covering a single entity. This ball is in your court.

Mentioning Electors brings me to the Election which will be held on 2nd May 2024. As things stand this will be for County and Parish Councillors, 'though it might of course be extended to include Parliament itself. You will be aware that I bang on about being short of Councillors, and this might be exacerbated as several of the existing Parish Councillors have expressed reservations about putting themselves forward for re-election. Indeed, unless there are more than 9 candidates there will be no election, and you will be lumbered with whichever volunteers remain. This is surely a pity, for whilst we have few powers

we do have a voice, a voice that is sometimes listened to by those who do have power, and whilst we try to speak on behalf of the Parish so few Councillors cannot possibly represent the variety of opinions properly.

Another issue to reflect on at this time of year is Winter Resilience and the recent rains have reminded us that we are dependent upon services provided to us. Other nearby Parishes have plans that deal with terrorist incidents and one even has actions following a plane crash. We just think it sensible to suggest that having a few essentials at hand in case you should lose gas, electricity or both, or have rather more water than you need. Perhaps having a handy bag with a change of clothes, medicines, a torch and spare batteries would be sensible planning, and if you are young and fit enough to laugh this off, how about your neighbours?

As always we welcome feedback on the Council's activities so please feel free to speak to any of the Councillors or contact us officially through our Clerk – clerk@winterbornestmartin-pc.gov.uk. The majority of our documents are now published on our website <https://www.winterbornestmartin-pc.gov.uk/community/winterborne-st-martin-parish-council-18643/home/>. And, if you are interested in what we are dealing with please visit the website and subscribe for updates.

***On behalf of the Parish Council
can I wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year,***

Regards,
Mark Pemberton · Chair





THE MARTINSTOWN ADVENT CALENDAR WINDOW TRAIL IS BACK!

"I don't know what to do!" cried Scrooge, laughing and crying in the same breath I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school-boy. I am as giddy as a drunken man. A merry Christmas to everybody! A happy New Year to all the world!"

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

If I could give Scrooge a suggestion for what to do, I would encourage him to look at the Martinstown Advent Calendar Window Trail. Why don't you join him? Look out for each new window, enjoy the creativity of your fellow villagers and bathe in the feelings of goodwill and cheer that each window will shine out to you.

The Advent Calendar Window Trail's purpose is not only to raise the feelings of festivity in the village but also, to raise money for the homeless charity CRISIS. A gift of £29.75 to CRISIS at Christmas could give someone who is homeless a bed for the night, hot meals including Christmas dinner, access to health and well-being programmes and the support to possibly leave homelessness behind for good. There is a donation tin in our village shop "The Merchant of St Martin". Please give whatever you can, to show your appreciation for the work gone into creating the windows and to make this Christmas a better one for those less fortunate than ourselves!

In the words of Tiny Tim. *"God bless us everyone!"* and I wish you all, a peaceful and content Christmas and a New Year full of possibilities.

With love, **Sally Webb**

Martinstown Advent Calendar Window Trail 2023

- 1 10 Manor Grove
- 2 The Brewers Arms
- 3 The Milk Vending Machine
- 4 Chantry Cottage
- 5 Old Brewery House
- 6 Old Cottage
- 7 4 Winterbourne View
(barn, beyond Washpool House)
- 8 Bluebell Cottage, Grove Hill
- 9 27 Grove Cottage
- 10 4 Hardy Close
- 11 The Book Box
- 12 Old Brewery Cottage
- 13 2 Cowleaze
- 14 3 Cowleaze
- 15 3 Hardy Close
- 16 4 Cowleaze
- 17 Park Farm
- 18 18 Cowleaze
- 19 34 Cowleaze
- 20 11 Manor Grove
- 21 Steven's Farm Lodge
- 22 Rylstone
- 23 Grove Cottage, Grove Hill
- 24 1 Manor Grove



Not a lot of people know that...

- People have been sending Christmas cards since 1843...
- The Christmas biggest gift ever was sent in 1865 - the Statue of Liberty...
- Jingle Bells was the first Christmas song in space..
- Tinsel was originally made with real silver...
- The original Christmas pudding recipe had meat in it...
- Santa has his own postcode - HOH OHO



VALLEY CLUB

Valley Club News

By now members will have planted their supplies of Daffodil bulbs from the Gold Club that were issued in October around the village or are soon to do so in anticipation of the Spring.



As I write this, the preparations for the Christmas Celebration on the 2nd December are under way.

The secret recipe for the mulled wine is being retrieved from the safe, the mince pies being selected, the cheese sampled, and no doubt the singers and musicians are practicing.

What's more, the bar is being stocked...



Kicking off our presentations next year on the 15th January will be Alan Jenkins, who, having spent a big art of his life in counter-terrorism, tells me he's going to explain to us what WE can do to prevent terrorism. It all sounds rather intriguing...



Then on the 19th February the subject returns to gentler issues as we hear about Gardening Folklore from our friends at the Gold Club.

We hope that, wherever you are in the Valley or nearby, you'll want to make it to as many of these events as suits.

Such special memories...

Each year brings special times, and indeed, special memories. Christmas is, perhaps, one of the most special. It's a time when families gather, gifts are exchanged and treasured memories made. Memories have extra value when shared. When we share them with others we relive them ourselves and often bring to mind extra information, perhaps temporarily forgotten. It is by this means we again experience the warmth and joy of those special memories

Nigel and I visit Park House Care Home each month and take Communion to the residents. The photograph was taken in the lounge as we celebrated Harvest Festival. One of the great joys of such visits is our ability to listen to special memories recounted by those we are privileged to visit.

I think it is a true statement that the most precious gift that we can give is that of our time.

Nigel and I encourage you to be generous with that very gift this Christmas tide. There are those who may be lonely, those we knew for a while and have simply lost touch. Neighbours who don't often get a chance to have a real



conversation with someone. This list is endless.

It costs very little to invite someone to join you for a cup of tea and a chat. A phone call can be so welcome. You never know but a few minutes of your time could turn out to be your most generous gift to another this year.

You may end up being as lucky as Nigel and I when we hear about some of the wonderful times and experiences that form the richness of the lives of others.

Allen Knott





Recycling, Rubbish & Garden Waste Collection Dates

DECEMBER 2023*

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

14th (Thursday)	– recycling and food	7th (Thursday)	– rubbish and food
30th (Saturday)	– recycling and food	21st (Thursday)	– rubbish and food
6th (Weds)	– garden waste	20th (Weds)	– garden waste

* Correct at time of printing.

JANUARY 2024*

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

12th (Friday)	– recycling and food	6th (Saturday)	– rubbish and food
25th (Thursday)	– recycling and food	18th (Thursday)	– rubbish and food
17th (Weds)	– garden waste	31st (Weds)	– garden waste

* Correct at time of printing.

Festive collections

Remember:

- we will collect up to two extra sacks of rubbish beside your bin on your first rubbish collection after Christmas Day
- no garden waste collections will take place from Christmas Eve until Monday 8 January
- household recycling centres are open from 9am to 4pm daily, except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day
- extra recycling, including glass and food, will be collected on your recycling collection day, provided it has been separated correctly and placed in a suitable sturdy container (no bags) that can be easily lifted by one person
- please help our crews by putting your glass out for collection before Christmas

This ensures you have as much space as possible in your glass box, helping prevent over spilling containers, and reduces the amount of extra glass we collect over the busy festive period.

Festive recycling

Many households produce extra waste over Christmas, but much of it can be recycled using your kerbside Recycle for Dorset service.

Remember that you can recycle:

- cooked and uncooked food, using your food waste bin
- wrapping paper (not foil or glittery paper, please)
- cardboard and recyclable packaging (not polystyrene)
- Christmas cards and envelopes (no glitter)



How did Joseph and Mary weigh baby Jesus at birth?

They had a weigh in the manger.

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!



“Criss-crossed...” a surreal short story by Fran Taylor

Sarah sighed, there was no right way of telling her daughter-in-law that she did not wish to spend another birthday weekend with those delinquent monsters. She shuddered as memories of last year flooded back. There was nothing for it, the deed had to be done. She picked up the phone...

They had arranged to meet at the Lulworth Inn. So far the only contact had been by phone, email and exchange of photos.

He felt a flutter of nervousness as he locked up his car and set off for Reception. He signed in and was shown to their room.

“Very satisfactory” he muttered as he bared his teeth and adjusted his toupee in the bathroom mirror.

“Not bad for 74... definitely pass for 60, I hope.”

Leaving Durdle Door, Sarah had climbed to the top of the hill and was now gazing down into the bowl-shaped cove of Lulworth. As she stood, the beaming sunlight slid out from beneath a lowering sky highlighting the brown fields marked by criss-crossed patterns of well-worn paths, slipping down to the water's edge. A slight sea was running and small waves frothed and foamed to and fro along the beach, edged with remnants of seaweed.

Three small dinghies were pulled up, well out of the reach of hungry tides and a boat at anchor gently rocked whilst the skipper worked on it. An icy wind grazed her face and tweaked her nose. Shivering she pulled up her collar. She turned away and set off down the hill towards the hotel. The awaiting cup of coffee and hot bath seemed very appealing.

She pushed open the door of the Snug. It was empty apart from an old man, huddled close to the blazing log fire. Rubbing her hands she approached the bar...

“Large Gin and Tonic,” she said.

“Come far?” enquired the barman, noting the Jimmy Choo handbag and coifured hair.

“London. I'm meeting an old friend” she said as she picked up her drink and headed for the fire.

Brian stood up as she approached.

“Samantha, Samantha Clark?”, he asked, holding out his hand. She gazed at him in horror.

“You're not Brian Jenkins. You don't look anything like your bloody photo. I'm not spending a sodding weekend with you. What sort of girl do you think I am?”

She knocked back her drink and flounced out barging into a middle-aged woman as she left. Sarah stood, rubbing her shoulder. The snug was empty apart from an elderly man.

“Americano with hot milk, please.”

“Come far?” enquired the bar man noting the windswept hair and gortex jacket.

“Walking the Coastal path and I'm booked in here for the night” she said picking up her coffee and heading for the fire. The old man slowly stood up.

“Sarah, Sarah, is that you?”

“Good heavens daddy, what on earth are you doing here and who the hell was that?”

“Don't ask, my darling just an old man's fantasy.”

“Oh dear” she said, putting her arms around him. *“What would mummy say?”*

“Don't tell her” said the barman, as he passed by collecting glasses

“Just don't tell her!”





Supper Evening

Our third annual supper evening at the village Hall was another splendid well attended event. This year the speaker was John Calder, Project Manager for the Great Big Dorset Hedge – a Dorset Climate Action Network project. John talked about the importance of hedges as a wildlife refuge in the country. They act as a safe ‘corridor’ for animals and birds to move across the countryside. They are also a good way to increase biodiversity within the agricultural landscape without having to sacrifice growing space. Currently the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) is offering farmers incentives to fill gaps and plant new hedges.

Once again the supper was amazing and the evening was book-ended with wonderful music by Trilby, Pete and Kate.

The next Green Martinstown Open Meeting will be held

Good News for Christmas and the New Year! (As seen in Positive News Magazine)

Wind Powered Shipping Returns

‘Wind Wings’ have been designed and engineered to fit on cargo ships! The sails are expected to save the vessel up to 3 tons of fuel a day and will fold flat onto the deck when not in use. And a sail-powered ferry running between Dover and Boulogne-sur-Mer in France is being launched by SailLink. After a successful

year’s pilot, the company plans to launch a daily service starting April next year for up to 12 passengers travelling by foot or bike.

White Tailed Eagles

A white tailed eagle chick has hatched on the Isle of Wight for the first time in 240 years! A breeding pair of birds were relocated from Scotland and have clearly settled into their new home well.

Six New Nature Recovery Schemes

434,900 acres of land at 6 new sites across England were launched this summer by Natural England. The projects will manage flooding, improve carbon stores and build wildlife habitats across the South Downs, Cheshire, Lancashire and the Tees Estuary. Funded by £7.4m from DEFRA.

Coal and Gas down by 17% in the EU

Burning coal and gas to generate electricity fell to a record low this year, down by 17% driven by the surge in renewables.

1.2 million mangrove seeds!

Abu Dhabi has recently planted 1.2 million mangrove seeds using drone technology. Over the last 20 years they have now planted nearly 20 million seeds. Mangrove stores up to four times more carbon than rain forests.





COMMUNITY • LUNCH •

The Community Lunch

Come and join us at the Village Hall for a scrumptious 2 course lunch and coffee, with lots of chat and laughter, all for £7 (£10 in December). Lunches are usually on the first Friday of each month, but in **January 2024** the team will take a break, recommencing on **2nd February**.

PLEASE NOTE HOWEVER that the legendary Christmas Lunch this year will be on **FRIDAY 15th December**.

Booking really is essential to ensure that we have the right amount of delicious food, so please 'phone **Ced on 889438** if you didn't put your name down at the last lunch in July (or if you're not sure!).



...it's back! FRIDAY NIGHT

BINGO

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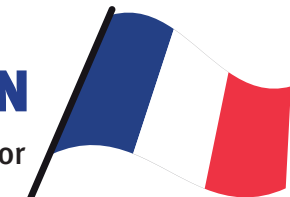
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