



AUGUST 2023

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





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AUGUST 2023

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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Current rates & specifications enquiries, and advertisement copy for each month's issue to:

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INTERREGNUM

We are now in a period sometimes referred to as an Interregnum. It's the time between a vicar leaving a parish and the licensing of the new Vicar. For all sorts of reasons this period can sometimes take quite a few months. Revd. Jean Saddington is no longer our vicar but is continuing her ministry as a Chaplain at Dorset County Hospital. She has secured a new home in our Valley so we shall see her from time to time either walking Mabel, her dog, or at the various local activities or groups.

During this period our Ministry Staff and Churchwardens will liaise with our Rector, Keith, to ensure that we have adequate cover for services and that pastoral care continues. Do feel free to contact any of us should you feel the need.

On a practical level service times and venues will continue but with some slight changes in the nature of some services.

There will be no Changes to the usual services at Winterbourne Abbas, Compton Valence or Winterbourne Steepleton. The only change at Martinstown will be that there will not be a Eucharist on the third Sunday of each month. This will be replaced by a service of Matins.

What should we do as we wait for a new Vicar?

First I urge you all to pray for all those charged with the selection process and also for whoever is chosen to lead us. I think too we need to remind ourselves that we are all called to serve God and His Church. We shall discover just how much Revd. Jean did for us as we take on the responsibility of 'keeping things going.' So let us pray for each other, support each other, encourage each other and, perhaps most importantly, offer forgiveness when mistakes are made or things omitted.

Let us resolve to do all we can to ensure that our Churches remain alive, vibrant and active.

Allen Knott

Licensed Lay Minister



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.





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), 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.

CHURCH SERVICES during...

AUGUST 2023

Sunday 6th

9th Sunday after Trinity

10.00 Holy Communion – Winterbourne Abbas

11.00 Holy Communion – Martinstown

Sunday 13th

10th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 Holy Communion (BCP) – Martinstown

9.30 Holy Communion – Compton Valence

11.00 Holy Communion – Winterbourne Steepleton

Sunday 20th

11th Sunday after Trinity

10.00 Worship Together – Winterbourne Abbas

11.00 Matins – Martinstown

Sunday 27th

12th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Worship Together – Martinstown





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

WINTERBOURNE ABBAS
VILLAGE FETE
at
ST MARY'S CHURCH
WINTERBOURNE ABBAS
on
SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
12 NOON TO 4PM



Winterbourne Abbas & Steepleton Parish Council

At last month's Parish Council meeting, our new Chairman Tony Hancox (Abbas) and vice Chairman Peter Norbury (Steepleton) were elected together with a new councillor Ellie Sturrock who was co-opted to replace retiring Steepleton councillor Richard Crumbleholme. The group council has three members from each village. Richard Crumbleholme has been appointed as Parish Clerk after the retirement of Stephen Slade who had been clerk for over 50 years.

A review of the past year noted that the massive National Grid VIP pylon removal project was nearing completion. Although disruptive, the villages have benefitted from National Grid's community funding with a solar powered Speed Indicator Device and part funding of stream cleaning in Steepleton. The National Grid's contractor Morgan Sindall very generously donated their defibrillator, which has now been sited at the filling station in Abbas. The parish council will insure and maintain both these pieces of equipment. Crime levels have been low in both villages and no serious flooding has been experienced.


Refurbishment of the bus shelters and village seats is taking place over this summer. A meeting has been arranged with National Highways and Dorset Highways to address various issues in Abbas relating to the busy A35 trunk road, these include speeding and maintenance of the leat and surface water drainage.

Defibrillator at Winterbourne Abbas

Due to the initial idea and efforts of local villagers, the National Grid's contractor Morgan Sindall very generously donated an automated defibrillator to the village. The Parish Council obtained the approval of the Motor Fuel Group to site the unit at their garage / filling station in Abbas. After obtaining a new battery and pads, the unit has been sited externally to the right hand side of the shop entrance near the Amazon pick up point. It has been registered with the national database to allow emergency services to use it as well as the general public on a 24/7 basis. The Parish Council has undertaken to maintain and insure the unit.

WINTERBOURNE ABBAS DEFIBRILLATOR

The Defibrillator is situated at The Esso
garage to the east of the Village



...it's back! FRIDAY NIGHT
BINGO

NEW TIME! Every fortnight
at the **Village Hall**
Eyes down **7.00pm**
ALL GOOD FOOD PRIZES TO BE WON!4





VALLEY CLUB NEWS

“At the time of writing, we are anxiously looking at the weather forecast for the Summer Celebration on the 15th July – our next report will cover what actually happened, although we’re confident there’s a lot of fun to be had come rain or shine ... or wind!

But before that, there’s plenty else to report on.

The club’s much-anticipated horticultural contest of the year for the Open Gardens weekend reached its climax at the village hall on the 17th June as an array of resplendent fuchsias, that had started out as small plug plants a few weeks previously, were put on display. Our thanks go to the wonderful Rev. Jean Saddington for performing the daunting task of judging. It all came down to density and fullness of shape - and so it was that Mike Beasley triumphed! That is to say his fuchsia was found have those qualities in abundance.

Alan Pearce’s plant was a worthy runner-up, delivering outstanding foliage, with the flowers yet to make an appearance. As noted by a nameless Committee member, had there been a prize for the smallest specimen, your correspondent would have been its recipient.

Later, on a perfect, sunny day of the 22nd June, 37 people travelled via the New Forest and its ponies to Beaulieu, where they enjoyed a day featuring a tremendous mix different attractions.

The motor museum itself had a splendid display of vehicles through the years including early electric ones (which were not a success due to problems with battery charging) right up to today’s BMW Mini.

There was an impressive, recently installed sculpture exhibition both in the grounds and palace and ornamental gardens as well as productive ones, with various walks around the grounds, plus a large lake the far side of the house. Most of the group enjoyed a trip on the vintage bus and monorail. The house itself had many interesting displays including family memorabilia of previous coronations including the recent one of Charles III, a few weeks prior to our visit.

Now a date for your diary: The Fish and Chips have already been ordered for Quiz night on September 25th. The price for the evening will be £10 and, with the club having grown significantly in the past year, we’re expecting a big turn-out.”

Chris Evans, Secretary.





Green Martinstown

Web: greenmartinstown.org.uk

Email: greenmartinstown@gmail.com

Did you know: Poundbury Garden centre is now recycling candle wax and old compost bags. And Dorchester Transport Action Group are holding a car free day on September 22nd 2023. Called Streets Alive there will be many activities in the Charles Street Car Park. More details here: www.dorsetcan.org/all_organisations/dorchester-transport-action-group/

use and consume, where it comes from and the impact it can have. We met for an evening a month at one another's homes taking it in turns to facilitate the evening, and ended in the pub. We are now hoping for the ink spot effect. If you would like to join, and embark on this worthwhile journey with others please email us: there is already one participant for the new G L P group.

Did you know: the water taken to produce any item is called the 'embedded water usage'? And that the embedded water in the manufacture of one car is between 500,000 and 1 million litres, of one pair of jeans 10,850 litres and of one sheet of paper 10 litres. And that there are in total 326 quintillion gallons = 1233.91 quintillion liters of water on earth? Of which 90% salt, and the rest fresh.

Green Martinstown's supper evening this year is on Saturday October 28th and we will among other things be presenting some of what we have learnt in the Green Living Project in a fun way.

These facts and many more have come from the Green Living Project that 7 Martinstowners have just completed. The project was a great community effort and we had a lot of fun. This was surprising as much of what we were learning was quite shocking. For instance, did you know that aviation accounts for 5% of all global emissions. And that supermarkets put gas (with chemicals) in the sealed clear plastic bags/ sachets in which they sell veg or fruit. And that maps of sea projections show that the whole length of the Chesil bank and much of Weymouth and Bridport will be under water by 2050. And – a sobering portrait of human nature – that while over 50% of the population are more concerned about the effects of flying than 5 years ago, only 8% actually fly less! However, all of us have made different practical changes to our daily lives as a direct result of the group meetings, and are now more conscious about what we

Dorset COP September 9th 2023.
<https://dorsetcop.info/>

Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN) is organising and hosting the first Dorset COP (Conference of Parties) It is Dorset's "very own opportunity for the community to have its say on the climate and ecological crises. By bringing together a wide cross section of community-based groups from across the county we hope to raise awareness of the need and desire to act locally, in a way that puts people at the heart of decisions and is socially just." It will be held at The Corn exchange in Dorchester bringing together representatives from many of the 200 or so groups across Dorset working on aspects of the climate and ecological emergency. There will be speakers, workshops and chances to network. It is hoped that this will become an annual event. A 'Declaration' will be made at the end of the conference. The conference has been endorsed by Chris Packham, the BBC naturalist and campaigner, with a message of support.



theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

THIS MONTH'S NEWS FROM Martinstown Women's Institute



At our meeting in July we were transported back to Tudor times at "An Evening with Henry VIII" presented by Anne Jones and her husband, beautifully dressed in medieval costumes. They performed music from King Henry's Book of Music and demonstrated a variety of instruments of the period. A very entertaining evening.

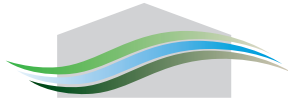
On 9th August we look forward to our Summer Tea Party at 2 pm in the Village Hall – jam, scones and cream with a glass of Pimm's.



Three of our members recently took part in Axe Throwing and Archery with Rosie Duke winning first prize for Axe Throwing. Lesley is planning another session – so remember "Don't mess with the WI!"

Angela Barrett - Secretary





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





Winterborne St Martin PARISH COUNCIL

NEWS

AUGUST 23

With the election looming nine months away this my last year as a Parish Councillor. Life as a Councillor hasn't been anything like I imagined when I stood for election nearly four years ago. My poorly informed thinking had me spending a few hours keeping the village a good place to live, perhaps a few extra flower beds, maybe a new bench or two, some community or AONB initiatives etc. Reality has been quite different to my imaginings.

At one of my very first Council meetings a volunteer was sought to attend an Environment Agency flood meeting. Nobody was keen to make the trip to Blandford Forum so, knowing nothing, I put my hand up, and from that day forth, like it or not, I became the Council's de facto flood representative! It has been a rocky ride as anything involving the stream divides local opinion as we strive to balance flood risk management with ecology concerns. We have made a few cautious steps forward, for example, we have made sure the autumn stream clearance is now done sensitively, by hand, rather than as we had done for years previously using a mechanical digger. There is also a plucky band of villagers who volunteer to get in there and clear minor blockages, as and when needed, to whom I am indebted especially as I can no longer get down and dirty in the stream. I have had to recognise my recent mobility issues have made me poorly suited to the flood role and I have just handed on the flood baton to Councillor Raphaella Rookes who is certainly fitter!

My particular interest is in engagement and transparency; I have focussed a lot of my energies in that direction particularly in organising, along with Deborah Follet, the 2021 village survey. When a long-standing Councillor threatened to resign over a proposed spending plan for a much needed website, I stepped up, again with Deborah's help, we developed a free website. Over the last couple of years we have established, I hope, a simple, but useful Council

website with some real information, planning notices, historical records, a newsfeed, etc. As with everything there is always room for improvement so do get back to me if you have any ideas or suggestions.

We have aspired to make our comments process for planning applications a little more transparent. All applications we receive are now posted on the website and you can be notified of new applications automatically by signing up to our newsfeed. We now meet 11 times per year so we can discuss the majority of applications in public whenever possible. We only get 3 weeks to comment on applications so it is inevitable some applications need to be commented in advance of the public meeting; we always try to gauge the view of villagers in preparing our comments.

Villager attendance at Council meetings is invariably in the low single figures; I am always disappointed that I haven't done enough to engage with you all. Many of those villagers attending meetings do so only as they have an interest in a particular agenda item, often their own, or a neighbour's planning application. The Council gets some criticisms, particularly so in the parish survey, these are welcome as at least a sign of some engagement; one has to be watching our operations to be able to criticise!

In the last year we have been lucky enough to gain some new Councillors, family people with young children; we hope this makes us a little bit more representative of the community. For the Parish Council to be truly representative we need to involve the community and see more of you bring influence to bear on our decision-making. We have endeavoured to make things more engaging for you but we are a long way from succeeding; it's quite a rare event for a villager to get in touch with a Councillor let alone attend a meeting. If you have any thoughts on what more we can do please get in touch.

continued on p17





The Valley Club Summer Celebration...

Would the wind and rain let up?

Would the people brave it and show up?

We needn't have worried about either of these things as the crowd of over 200 people came with their picnics and chairs to the Manor, where the breeze was light and the rain stayed away.

We were rewarded with a fantastic performance from singer Tony Lowe, who went above and

beyond by crooning for an extra half an hour while we waited for the Fat Marrow Blues Band drummer to free himself of traffic and show up!

And what an amazing set the band performed for us. Fabulous musicians, they were absolutely captivating and had lots of us up dancing.

It was great that so many in the village and the valley came and made it such a memorable day.





Some images from this





year's Martinstown Open Gardens...





Open Gardens and Fun Family Dog Show

A huge thank you is due to all who made the recent open gardens weekend such a success. The stars of the show were the gardens and most importantly their owners. We have so many beautiful gardens showing the talent, care and expertise which we have in abundance in our lovely village. We had a very busy time in the hall serving teas and delicious cakes made in the village – thank you to all our wonderful bakers too! The small but dedicated team behind the hatch worked really hard; gosh, those same cups kept on coming round to be washed up again and again.

Our thanks go to our two local art groups, which meet weekly in the hall, whose work on display attracted great interest and admiration. Of course, there was an awful lot of behind-the-scenes work, what with signs and posters and more signs and chairs and insurance and more signs – as well as a hundred other details to be sorted out and jobs to be done. A great big thank you to the Village Hall committee members who worked so hard.

Our very own dog-whisperer, Toni out did

herself this year and put on yet another successful dog show which was enormous fun and very well attended. Another small but dedicated band of volunteers made sure all ran smoothly and the team from Parkhouse Pet Supplies once again were kind enough to be judges and to provide goody bags for the prizewinners.

As I walked around the village that week, I was struck by the many lovely front gardens on display too. The whole village seemed to be putting on a show, so thank you – and thank you for putting up with all the visitors, cars and extra dogs. Here's to next time!?

Martinstown Village Hall A.G.M.

This will be held on **Monday, 4th September at 7 pm in the Village Hall**. All are welcome from the Valley and beyond. We particularly look forward to seeing representatives of our regular hall users.

MARTINSTOWN VILLAGE HALL + 100 CLUB DRAW

MARTINSTOWN JULY 2023

£25. Pam Slade
£10. Stephen Slade
£5. Christine Mooney

COMPTON VALENCE JUNE 2023

£25. Andrea Neville-Rolfe
£10. Honeybun Family
£5. Mhairi-Skye Tweed

COMPTON VALENCE JULY 2023

£25. Rob Acheson
£10. Cecilia Kelsey
£5. Andrea Neville-Rolfe



The **MILEATERS** out and about...

A wander to the pub... by Lesley Pemberton



Nine Mileaters and one dog, left the village green and headed up to the sea wall (all except two, who did their own pathway!). Turning left we headed on, admiring the dry stone wall building. It looked like the heavens were about to open but we were grateful it didn't. We made various stops to admire the beautiful countryside we live in. There was some dispute about which path to take across the wheat fields, but as Laura pointed out... "follow the leader". We crossed through Ashton Farm yard, over the Upway road and passed the cricket pitch. Eventually making our way along the water meadows path and coming out at Four Acres, we were greeted by the gardener. No time to stop and chat as we had the pub to get to – it's thirsty work wandering along hills and dales. At last, well earned refreshments awaited us. Thank you all for the great company.

continued from p12

I perhaps spend maybe 20 hours per week working as a Councillor; keeping up to date on the various regulations that effect the Council's operation, ensuring we work with the facts as opposed to rumour, managing processes, trying to keep myself and the Council as best informed as possible. As a volunteer Councillor you are really only committed to a few hours per month, some spend more time but many manage with the bare minimum. It's my choice to spend more time but I like to be well-informed and there is plenty to learn and improve upon. As we move toward the election next year I would be happy to talk to and encourage any villagers who are considering standing for election. Get in touch on 01305 889301 or kdelafield@winterbornestmartin-pc.gov.uk.

And finally I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be a Councillor; it has, as they say, been a real learning experience.

Karen Delafield · Vice Chair



I know it's been a while since the **Jumble Trail** took place but this is the first Parish Magazine since then – all you people on Facebook will already have seen this message but this is for those people who have the good sense to not get involved with social media!

Anyway, thank you for your involvement with the Jumble Trail (both sellers and buyers). As it was the first time this event had been held it was a definite learning curve – although it was a huge success, lessons have been learnt (times, parking, loos, refreshments). Hopefully, if we repeat the event next year, we can implement those improvements.

The stall fees raised **£305** for the **Trussell Trust food bank charity** – also I know that several stallholders were selling to raise funds for their own chosen charities.

Thank you all again!

Elaine Herbert

- USEFUL CONTACT ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS -

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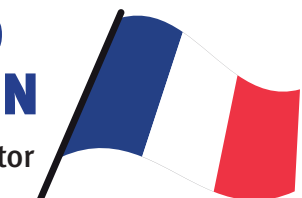
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Recycling, Rubbish & Garden Waste Collection Dates

AUGUST 2023* For more information contact: www.dorsetforyou.com/recycle

10th (Thursday)	– recycling and food	3rd (Thursday)	– rubbish and food
24th (Thursday)	– recycling and food	17th (Thursday)	– rubbish and food
		21st (Thursday)	– rubbish and food
2nd (Weds)	– garden waste	30th (Weds)	– garden waste
16th (Weds)	– garden waste		

* Correct at time of printing.

The Merchant of St Martin... More than just a village shop.

The worlds in a bit of a state these days, (inflation, rising interest rates, geopolitical tensions, etc.) So, we feel it's important for one's health and sanity to embrace the benefits of our local and close-knit communities. Winterborne St Martin is blessed with the essential pillars, the church, the village hall, the pub, and our shop, all adding to our quality of life.



So, what's the news from the Merchants?

Well, now summer is here, we've extended our opening hours on Friday and Saturday afternoons:

Friday 8 - 6 • Saturday 8 - 4

Working with the 'Brewers Arms', we've introduced takeaways, from Wednesday to Friday, currently alternating weekly between, 'Schnitzel' and Frikadellen (German meat balls), served with two different salads such as Waldorf, Bulgur, Potato and others.

Our 5 selected bakers deliver fresh goods daily from Monday to Saturday - Rise, Wobbly Cottage, Baking Bird, Peppina (Sicilian), and Evershot bakers, whose iced buns and Eccles Cakes are particularly popular!

We are excited about our extended offerings of cream teas and afternoon teas (please pre-order on **01305 880106 or 07394 163080**). Both available to eat in or take away.

Something that's bugged us for some time is 'waste'. We often throw out produce that has reached its sell-buy date, despite being perfectly fine to eat or use for cooking. To counter this, we're offering a waste box, So, please come to the shop between 5 and 6pm and check if anything is available on the day. Prices per box will vary between **£2 and £3**.

In good and bad times, we aim to provide a warm welcome to you – offering a wide variety of products, and a chance to sit down with a hot or cold drink and catch up with others in the community.

Shopping should be fun and sociable. We hope we help to make it so.

Keith and Michaela





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