



NOVEMBER 2023

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





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NOVEMBER 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.

ADVERTISING IN THE V&V PARISH MAGAZINE • Rates and Contact details

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

Graham Herbert, 1 Cowleaze, Martinstown, DT2 9TD

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





THOUGHTS
FROM THE
DESK OF...

Peter Steel
Compton Valence
Church Warden

Or... MUSINGS FROM O'ER THE HILL

Valley and Valence such an appropriate name for our parish mag. I've lived in "Cumton" for over thirty years, but still sometimes think of myself as a newcomer. Such is the long history of our small community. I suspect we qualify as one of the smallest villages in Dorset (based on a village requiring a church), but once visited never forgotten.

The village is recorded in the Domesday Book as Contone, with 25 households, one of the larger settlements of the time, but a very similar number to today!

The origins of the name is Cumb = in a valley, and Tun = town. Valence comes from the Lord of the Manor who was William of Valence, Lord Pembroke in the thirteenth century. Slightly earlier the village was known as Cumpton Pundelarge, which I guess derives from our not so large village pond! In 1811 we were briefly East Compton, but that didn't stick.

Back to the present day, we're proud to be part of the Winterbourne Benefice and the wider Dorchester Team. As a new warden some years back I was told an Interregnum was an opportunity for the Laity to step up and reflect on our role within the church. I now realise that there is much truth in this, but it is also a time to draw on the help of others, and I would like to thank Keith, Heidi and Allen for taking our services.

Please don't wait till Snowdrops to come and visit us.

Peter Steel
Compton Valence Church Warden



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.

CHURCH SERVICES during...

NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY 5th • 22nd Sunday after Trinity

10.00	Holy Communion – Winterbourne Abbas
11.00	Holy Communion – Winterbourne Steepleton

SUNDAY 12TH • Remembrance Sunday

8.00	Holy Communion (BCP) – Martinstown
9.30	Remembrance Service – Compton Valence
10.50	Remembrance Service – Martinstown

SUNDAY 19TH • 2nd Sunday before Advent

10.00	Worship Together – Winterbourne Abbas
11.00	Morning Prayer (Matins) – Martinstown
17.00	Church @ 5 – Martinstown

SUNDAY 26TH • Christ the King

11.00	Worship Together – Martinstown
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Join us at Messy Church
 St. Mary's Church
 Winterbourne Abbas

First Tuesday
 of the month.
 6th November
 3- 5pm



messy activities
 games
 songs stories
 and supper

Free

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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

Learn to
 Make
 this Angel

Saturday
 4th Nov.
 10 till 12
 £10

Steepleton
 Church



to book
 email
 wendymfrost@gmail.com



You are warmly invited to join us in
 St. Martin's Church on
 Sunday 19th November at

Church@5



We meet for tea/coffee and cake at
 5 p.m., followed by a relaxed time of
 worship. Why not give it a try?

 **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 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

HELP! We need your donations!

Can you bake a cake? Or donate a cake?

Are you a crafter? Can you make fabulous things for the Christmas Stall?

Have you any unwanted gifts that are new or almost new?

We'd also like donations for the 'Bric a Brac' stall, Prizes for the Tombola & Prizes for the Raffle.

Your kind donations of Prizes for the Tombola and Raffle, together with any 'Bric a Brac' are being collated by Celia Benson at The Laurels, Martinstown (on the main road)

01305 889466



The Dorchester Opportunity Group (DOG) is a non-profit registered charity which provides a safe, stimulating and caring environment for preschool children with a wide variety of additional needs and support for their parents, carers and siblings. DOG are based at the Prince of Wales Preschool Centre in Dorchester which is run by a voluntary Board of Trustees and an experienced staff team.





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• D A T E S F O R Y O U R D I A R Y •

12 November – 10.50 a.m. Remembrance Sunday

As in previous years a Service of Remembrance will be held on Martinstown Green. During the service the names of those who gave their lives during the two world wars of the last century will be read out. It will also be a time to remember all who have suffered as a result of armed conflicts around the world, and to pray for peace.

Sunday 17 December – 6.00 p.m. Christmas Carol Service at Martinstown

Thursday 21 December – 6.00 p.m. Christmas Carol Service at Winterbourne Steepleton

Recycling, Rubbish & Garden Waste Collection Dates

NOVEMBER 2023*

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

2nd (Thursday)	– recycling and food	9th (Thursday)	– rubbish and food
16th (Thursday)	– recycling and food	23rd (Thursday)	– rubbish and food
30th (Thursday)	– recycling and food		
8th (Weds)	– garden waste	22nd (Weds)	– garden waste

* Correct at time of printing.



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

Grumble time but with a serious message.

Our initial goal was that the shop would continue to develop as an integral part of village life, providing a convenient range of merchandise, from basics to more luxury items, but as importantly, becoming a meeting place for the community.

However, as a business, there are several issues that need to be addressed.

Most village shops rely on volunteers to survive. Unfortunately, apart from the stalwart few, with us from the beginning, we have been unable to recruit more. This has a negative impact on our cost structure, as we rely on paid staff to keep open.

As we know, many local businesses are struggling, and will only survive if supported by the community. Our village shop is in the same situation - running costs are not being covered by the turnover.

Are you shopping with us? Even in a small

way? We cannot survive on selling newspapers, bread, and milk alone, but spending £5 a week in a small local shop has a greater impact than if spent in a large retail outlet or chain.

Do the residents of the Winterborne valley and beyond, want a village shop? The response when we began, and still is, an overwhelming YES! The village shop is seen as being at the heart of the community.

However, the footfall says otherwise.

Gripping done! But unfortunately, it means we must save some costs, and this means reducing the opening hours.

Beginning 1st November, the shop will no longer be open on Sundays.

Monday to Saturday, the opening hours will be from 8 am to 3 pm.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Keith and Michaela

COME AND MEET
SANTA
IN HIS GROTTO

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FREE

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WINTERBOURNE ABBAS
SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER
2PM- 4PM

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PIGS IN
BLANKETS

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COMMUNITY
LARDER

FREE GOLDEN
TICKET
RAFFLE

CRAFTS
&
DECORATIONS

GAMES &
ACTIVITIES

COFFEE
&
CAKE

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!





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

Martinstown Women's Institute

At our meeting in October we heard from Brian Bates about the harsh sentences imposed on young children in the 19th century. They were sent to prison or even transported for stealing food or fruit – a result of extreme poverty and hunger.

A group of us attended the Dorset Federation Annual Meeting in Poole. In the morning we were addressed by Ann Jones, Chair of the National Federation of Women's Institutes. She told us that membership numbers are increasing and the influence that WI has through various campaigns. The current one is concerning clean river water. After lunch our speaker was the Rev Kate Bottley (Radio 2, Goggle Box, Songs of Praise, etc) – a highly entertaining talk. Not a typical vicar!

On Wednesday 8th November Stuart Nuttall will be showing a film about local churches. Please note - Now that we are in the winter months, this will be an afternoon meeting at 2.30 pm in the village hall and will be an Open Meeting – all friends welcome.

Angela Barrett - Secretary

- THE FOOD BANK -

Thank you for your generous donations throughout the summer, and especially at Harvest services. It is more important than ever that we keep the flow of donations to the Food Bank going, as we approach the winter months.

Please continue to place tinned and packet food items, as well as bathroom essentials, in the boxes provided in the village shop and church.

An extra plea - when you begin Christmas shopping, please add a Christmas treat item to the Food Bank collection.

Thank you.. **Helen Thompson**

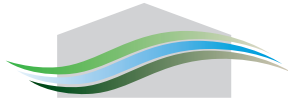
MARTINSTOWN VILLAGE HALL + 100 CLUB DRAW

MARTINSTOWN **OCTOBER 2023**
£25. Lilly Evans
£10. Wendy and Robert Frost
£5. Gerald Duke

COMPTON VALENCE **OCTOBER 2023**
£25. Mhairi-Skye Tweed
£10. Malcolm Smith
£5. The Sparkes Family

A BIG thank you for renewing your annual subscription. It really helps with the Village Hall expenses.





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

NOVEMBER 23

This has been an interesting period in a number of ways, not least the now regular autumnal migration of the Clerk, but my theme here will be the planning approval process, rumours of corruption, and the inevitable plea for people to join us as councillors.

There have recently been a number of interesting planning applications, and wherever possible the Clerk has gained us permission to consider them openly at our meetings, inviting the comments of interested parties before the Council takes a view on whether to support, oppose or remain neutral on an application. The Parish Council is merely one consultee of the planning authority – Dorset Council, although provided we stick to material and relevant matters our view does seem to be given some weight by the Authority.

In one case recently I heard the suggestion, third hand naturally, that the Council, or Councillors had acted corruptly in dealing with a planning matter. I have two responses to this, firstly if anyone wishes to seriously suggest that something like this has occurred, they should report it, either to the Clerk (as Proper Officer) or to the Monitoring Officer at Dorset Council. Secondly, and facetiously, I'm disappointed that if this is going on nobody has ever offered me anything in return for my vote! However, the point might have been that very few Councillors have been seen to vote, and if the result has not been what was desired the inference might be that some or all of the Councillors have been swayed. Whilst

we have had a few councillors indisposed recently, we have always been quorate, and we could have more members voting if anyone else was prepared to be co-opted as a Councillor. So, your opportunity to influence what is best for our Parish is but an application form away...

In other matters, we move on in gaining legal control of the Memorial Hall/Reading Room, and looking ahead, at November's meeting we will set the budget for 23-24 which will of course include a recommendation on the required precept. So, if you have a view on what we should be spending your money on, and how much of it we should spend, now might be a good time to raise it.

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.

As a Council we are committed to following Dorset Council in moves towards being "paperless" so the majority of documents are now published on our website www.winterbornestmartin-pc.gov.uk/community/winterborne-st-martin-parish-council-18643/home/.

I don't always remember to advertise everything on Facebook so please subscribe for updates on the website.

Regards,
Mark Pemberton · Chair

"Halloween is the beginning of the holiday shopping season. That's for women. The beginning of the holiday shopping season for men is Christmas Eve."

David Letterman

"Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with slow Internet to see who they really are."

Will Ferrell





GIMMEE! GIMMEE! GIMMEE! DANCING QUEEN!



ABBA

Party night

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2023



MARTINSTOWN VILLAGE HALL

★	CASH	7PM	£15PP	DISCO	FANCY	<i>Prizes!</i>
	BAR	START	INCLUDES 2 COURSE SUPPER			



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CATHIE SEIGAL - 01305 889244

ROELIE NEWMAN - 01305 889192



Organised by Martinstown
Circle Supper Group





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

Chetnole with Stile... by Martin Usherwood



Fresh from the Mileaters Tour of Dartmoor an intrepid number (18) of the group turned out to tick off another area of Dorset and get to the pub before Storm Agnes arrived. From the Chetnole



that the Cerne Abbas Giant is a depiction of Edwold. St Edwold's Day is the 29th Aug.

From the Church there is a very pleasant flat(ish)walk back towards Chetnole. But first,

Inn our early route lulled the group into a false sense of security, it being mainly flat grassland. Then came a section which took in the only bit of hillside for some miles. Following the Hardy Way we ventured, out of breath, to the summit and plunged down into the lovely little hamlet of Melbury Bubb. Sounds better if you say it as Blackadder would, with emphasis on the final B's. Hardy called this place Little Hintock in "The Woodlanders". There is a church here with an extraordinary font on which the animals are carved upside down. This font had been part of a large cross once which has been repurposed. Oil lamps adorn the walls and a huge log burner the entrance.

After a coffee break we regained height on the Hardy Way before descending to the next church.

I don't think calling someone 'The Grand Old Duke of York' was warranted after all it was only about 100' in actual vertical height! Passing the trig point gives one a fine view towards the NW into Somerset (well, on a clear day perhaps). The path took us to the uniquely named Church of St Edwold, said to be one of the oldest in Dorset. Measuring 30'x12'. Edwold was a hermit who came to Cerne Abbas and started the Hermitage by the Silver Well. Recently, it has been suggested

our esteemed President decreed that in true tradition we would follow the correct path across a ploughed field to the Sheaf of Arrows before turning for home. In so doing we reinstated the footpath for the farmer free of charge. The walk is about 5 miles but would have been shorter had a footbridge contained the necessary planks. However, the diversion allowed those with muddy boots to wash them by fording the stream.

All along the walk we encountered some impressive Oak trees with huge acorns. There must be some very chunky squirrels in these parts, not to be messed with unless you are in the WI. Once again crossing the railway led us back to the Inn 15 mins later than my estimate.

Did I mention the stiles? Apparently, there is a prize for the walk containing the largest number of stiles. When one pre-walks a route, a few stiles doesn't make much of a difference. When a group attempts the same walk it can make a huge difference. All those creaking hips and grinding knee joints, a sound not for the faint hearted. I think there were 10 stiles in all. However, we were able to walk around one and used the two gates at the railway crossing instead, so 7 seems a good number to set as a target with only a few months left of this year.





VALLEY CLUB NEWS

The Fish and Chips came out of the warming oven hot and delicious (well done and thank you, Case & Brewer!) and the bar was busy during the fiercely-contested Quiz Night at the Village Hall on the 25th September.

The scores achieved were notably higher than last year which must of course be because we have all become so much more intelligent during 2023. What other explanation could there be?

The teams were closely matched but Sheree and Martin Fitzgerald together with Rosie and Gerald Duke clinched a one-point win over the runners up, aided by their expert local knowledge enabling them to name the town of origin of Dorset Vinney (the answer's upside down at the end of this article.)

But the rest of us shouldn't be cheesed off because there's so much more to look forward to!

Christmas is in just a few short weeks and in the nick of time, the Village Hall will be graced with festive decorations ready for the Valley Club Christmas Celebration, on the revised date of 2nd December with mulled wine, mince pies, cheese, a bar and of course the wonderful live music. The doors will open at 7:30 pm.

Turning to January, I should perhaps not be surprised to have found it impossible to unearth anything on the internet about our speaker on the 15th. Alan Jenkins entitles his presentation "My Life in Counter-terrorism". I need add no more given how troublingly pertinent this is in our times.

On February 19th its all about the optimism and joy that comes from growing things when we'll be regaled with gardening folklore as the Gold Club comes to the Village Hall.

So if all of this sounds entertaining, enlightening and enticing but you haven't yet joined the Valley Club – there's a friendly bunch of people waiting to welcome you.

Chris Evans

Christmas Celebration: 2nd December at 7:30 pm

Alan Jenkins: 15th January at 7:45pm

Gold Club: 19th February at 7:45 pm

Quiz answer: Sturminster Newton

- USEFUL CONTACT ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS -

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Emergency: 999 · Non-emergency: 01722 691000

Dorset 'Out of Hours' Medical Service

NHS Tel: 111

ELECTRICITY EMERGENCIES

Tel: 0800 052 0400

GAS EMERGENCIES

Tel: 0800 111999

TO REPORT A POWERCUT

Tel: FREEFONE 105

www.powercut105.com

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RSPCA West Dorset Branch

PO BOX 5460, Weymouth, DT3 6WH

Tel: 0300 1234 999 · www.westdorsetrspca.org



Way out ↑

A romantic comedy
by James Cuthill
and Vince Jones

Dorchester
Corn Exchange

Saturday
16th December
2.30pm & 7.30pm

Sunday
17th December
7.30pm

Tickets from:
enquires@dorchesterarts.org.uk
or by telephone:
01305 266926

£14/£12 members
and concessions

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Email: greenmartinstown@gmail.com

This year is likely to be the hottest ever recorded, sea ice is melting more rapidly, biodiversity is falling. The effects of these factors may not immediately seem to affect us but...

Dorset COP September 9th

Groups and individuals concerned with sustainable, ecological and issues were able to meet and enhance working partnerships. Over 250 attended, including people from Martinstown. There was a range of workshops, lectures and activities that focused on how citizens can take action themselves and demand action from our leaders. At current rates of progress the Climate Emergency is not going away. Unless humans can act globally and locally we are all in for a rough time over the next 40 years.

Great Big Dorset Hedge

GM has been working with Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN) and landowners to survey hedges in the parish. This should provide information leading to more hedgerows and better management. This will lead to better places for wildlife and plants to live and a more vibrant landscape.

Citizen Science and dirty water

Volunteers have begun a monthly survey of the stream from Abbas to West Stafford, testing for solids and chemicals. The results are forwarded to the relevant authorities. Hopefully this will inform and encourage Wessex Water to take more steps to improve water quality.

Ponds in the parish

GM offers advice, person power and financial assistance for anyone wishing to make a pond for their garden. Take-up has been low so far so there is plenty of opportunity to benefit. The advantages for wildlife are massive and a pond provides a wonderful place to sit by and relax.

Next steps

GM seeks to raise awareness of how we can all live more sustainably and make this village's contribution to reducing problems we face. Partners include the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council and DCAN. We have an ongoing conversation with Dorset Council about providing more amenities in the valley. Any ideas, big or small, will be very welcome.

Green Living Project

Get together with four to six neighbours/friends or people you don't know. Meet up seven times for a meal or drinks, maybe taking turns to host. A detailed information pack will help you check how sustainable your lives are and importantly point up how you can reduce your energy and material needs. Discussion will focus on your homes and your lifestyle. Topics include food, energy, transport, waste, water and community. Incidentally, as a result, you will find more space and lower costs of living.

Let us know if you are interested in any of this or in volunteering on a project.



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**.

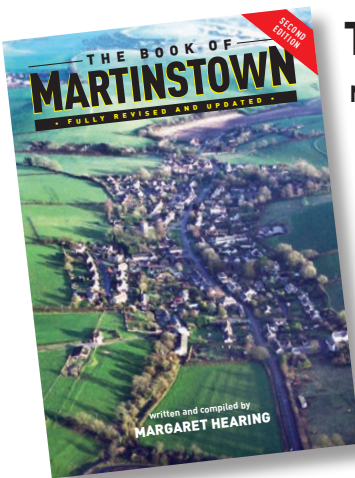
Booking really is essential to ensure that we have the right amount of delicious food, so please 'phone **Ced on 889438** if you didn't put your name down at the last lunch in July (or if you're not sure!).

Julia's House Fundraising

= QUIZ =

POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEW YEAR!
Saturday 11th November at the Village Hall.
There'll be a heartyaffle, fish and chips supper,
Prizes for the winners. six per team/table.
£12.50 per head.

Tickets on sale **NOW!**



The Book of Martinstown...

Margaret Hearing, the author of **The Book of Martinstown** has produced a new **print run** of her fascinating book. The original print run of the 'second edition' has long sold out BUT, due to popular demand, you can now buy a copy for **£12.80**.

"This book charts the history of Martinstown and the immediate area in an interesting and informative way. Something EVERY villager should have!"

If you would like to buy a copy, the books are on sale at the village shop - **The Merchant of St.Martin**.

Hurry though, because like previous copies, they WILL sell out fast!





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...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



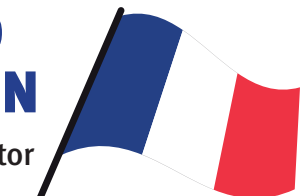
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Graham Herbert - Valley and Valence Editor

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