

ISOLATION

The temporary Valley & Valence
Parish Magazine for



SPECIAL

Winterborne St. Martin, Winterbourne Steepleton
Winterbourne Abbas & Compton Valence

The Last Post



NOVEMBER 2020 • DIGITAL EDITION

Hello everyone...

I hope you & all your loved ones are keeping well, and you are coping with the ever-changing restrictions that this global pandemic has forced upon us.

Well, after FIVE previous digital editions of the Valley and Valence magazine, I'm pleased to announce that this issue (the sixth) will (fingers crossed) be the last one.

Yes, that's right, the DECEMBER/JANUARY edition will be a PRINTED copy and will be winging its way through your letterbox by 1st December! It has been decided that we will have enough info, news, stories etc. to enable the magazine to be printed again. This will also mean that we will be able to include the current crop of advertisements - and hopefully new advertisers will come on board in order to help fund the production of a solid (holdable) copy!

Graham H. - Editor

VILLAGE HALL
100 CLUB DRAW

**Martinstown Draw
SEPTEMBER 2020**

1st Prize: Lynn Beasley
2nd Prize: Cedric Moorcroft
3rd Prize: Nigel & Nicky Singleton



Winterborne Abbas

Friends of Martinstown and the Valley

Dedicated to all the people that are selflessly and tirelessly helping others during these difficult times (you know who you are)!



Remembrance Sunday

10.55 am

8th November 2020

Martinstown Village Green

Due to COVID restrictions this year's Remembrance Sunday service will be a short service on the village green (by kind permission of the Parish Council). (There will be no indoor service.)

In what has been a special year, commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE and VJ day, we very much hope you will be able to join us as we keep the two-minute silence and lay wreaths in memory of the fallen.

A professional sound system will enable all to hear whilst adhering to social distancing rules. Remember to wear your mask!

(The above could be subject to change if COVID rules are modified)

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

November 2020

As we are no longer able to meet together, Martinstown WI held our first meeting on Zoom on 14th October. This was a lighthearted quiz organised by Lesley Pemberton. It was so good to see each other again and to have the opportunity for a chat. We plan to have more Zoom meetings and are looking at possible speakers for the future. If any members are unsure about Zoom and would like help, please get in touch with either Rosie or myself.

Angela Barrett • Secretary

CHURCH LECTIONARY NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER ALL SAINTS DAY

1 John 3. 1 - 3
Matthew 5. 1 - 12

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

1 Thessalonians 4. 13 - end
Matthew 25. 1 - 13

SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2ND BEFORE ADVENT

1 Thessalonians 5. 1 - 11
Matthew 25. 14 - 30

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER CHRIST THE KING

Ephesians 1. 15 - end
Matthew 25. 31 - end

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 1ST OF ADVENT

1 Corinthians 1. 3 - 9
Mark 13. 24 - 37

CHURCH SERVICES • NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday, 1st November - All Saints Day

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

Sunday, 8th November - Remembrance Sunday

09.30	Remembrance Service	Compton Valence
10.00	Remembrance Service	Winterbourne Abbas
10.55	Remembrance Service	Martinstown Village Green

Sunday, 15th November - 2nd Sunday before Advent

10.00	Worship Together	Winterbourne Abbas
11.00	Holy Communion	Winterbourne Steepleton

Sunday, 22nd November - Christ the King

11.00	Worship Together	Martinstown
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Sunday, 29th November - Advent Sunday

10.00	Zoom Service	-
11.00	Holy Communion	Martinstown

Martinstown - A drier community? ...fingers crossed.

The newly formed small group of flood volunteers (led by Karen Delafield) have been busy in the village surveying the current state & keeping an eye on the Winterbourne flow in recent heavy rain; looking for any water risks that may intercept flow such as overhanging branches, blocked drain gullies leading in, ditches that may need clearing, excessive vegetation caused by invasive species in the stream bed that may need removal, silt levels etc. Some riparian owners were politely approached & asked to do works where possible to help. All these in turn can contribute vastly to improvements in the flood planning if addressed before the bad weather is really upon us.

You may have heard the term "Riparian Owners" but don't know if it applies to you? Well, in simplistic terms, if a watercourse or a main river runs through, underneath, or along the boundary of your property/land you own (or your tenant resides in, in some cases) then you are likely to be the riparian owner for that stretch of watercourse, and with that comes legal responsibilities & duties. These owners generally are well prepared & aware of the risk of flooding and the damage it causes. They also have a duty of care to not increase the risk of flooding for their neighbours, or others further along.

A small working party of the volunteers then gathered to practically address all issues found and to help other riparian owners who required it. Excessive patches of vegetation were cleared by them, drains and gullies with issues were reported to Dorset Council (who duly appeared with cans of white spray to highlight areas they needed to work on) Wessex Water were reminded of their riparian responsibilities for ensuring unimpeded flow around their pump house, and they also assured us that they will be able to pump out again this winter if it's needed. Let's hope not.

(Discussions regarding the Parish Councils Village Flood Plan can be found in the Agendas and Minutes section of the village website www.martinstown-news.co.uk)

We hope that the contribution of these volunteers can practically help to prevent village properties from flooding. Then there still remains other support that some villagers may need in the event of flooding,

be it flash flooding, or run off from fields or roads which deluges in.

Physical & emotional support is very important to those who suddenly find themselves paddling about their own homes, as is immediate practical help or ongoing help. There are many things you can do to help neighbours pre flood, during or after, which may not be apparent to you, especially if your own household has never experienced flood water of any kind.

People can register online for flood alerts, even if they think their property is not at obvious risk.

A text message or voicemail alerting potential flood is a good trigger to offer timely help to a neighbour. <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>

Other practical help could be offering to install their flood preventive equipment such as barriers, pump placement, sand bag collection & installing (they're heavy!) turning off utilities such as gas, electrics, making calls & contacting insurers.

Help to quickly move furniture and save personal effects, help bail out.

Offering safer parking for vehicles at risk

Providing a dry place for some respite from their distressing situation. Especially for those more vulnerable, for whatever reason.

Providing a temporary home for a pet.

A hot meal if no utilities are on, hot drinks, offer to fetch shopping, do a wash, dry items.

Take photos of damage, offer access to IT/Broadband and phone lines for communicating with the necessary agencies and companies.

Help moving back in when the reinstatement works are over and property dry.

The list is endless, believe you me, but there are many villagers who give freely of their time to help others, it's just a case of contacting them, and asking. Never be too proud to ask, we all need help some-times in life, or know someone who does.

The quickest way in my own experience, on behalf of

my elderly neighbour to obtain help, was via "social media". I also left a written plea for help on the shop counter, rang other villagers I knew, put a notice on notice boards.

I found it was more helpful for all to specify the practical help I needed, bubble wrap & boxes, bricks for raising furniture, help removing sodden carpets in readiness for the loss assessor & to prevent more water soaking in floorboards etc. People came prepared; at the time I specified, and just got started with little prompting and guidance.

There may be some reading this who don't understand the term "social media", well... it's a collective term for interactive computer technologies (computers, mobile phones, ipads & tablets, watches) that allow the sharing of information with others. You may have heard of such things as Websites, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Messenger, YouTube? People can access this media technology in many different ways these days. So even if you have no desire to ever begin to use them, the chances are that you will know somebody who has the technology & would be happy to do so, on your behalf, just ask them. Amusingly, I find anyone of school age has fingers that work like lightning & will have "posted" your request or found an answer to your problem, before you have even finished your sentence. Social media isn't a fad, it's a fundamental shift in the way we communicate and can be a very useful tool.

A "post/written request" to our village Facebook page "Friends of Martinstown & the Valley" was the most effective and quickest route I found to help, and word spread itself from there.

Altogether it was nearly 8 months before my very elderly neighbour could once again sit comfortably in his own lounge surrounded by his possessions. He is not a riparian owner, but he still remains apprehensive every time it rains heavily on the fields up behind him, fearing yet another repeat of the run off. Let's hope not this coming winter.

Finally, a heartfelt thanks to the working party, other flood volunteers & conscientious riparian owners for their time & work to hopefully help keep this village dry.

Deb Follett - Flood Volunteer

Winterborne St Martin Parish Council – November 2020

The Parish Council continue to meet via Zoom as this is the safest way to meet given the current government guidelines and advice to Parish Councils. This enables the Parish Council to continue its day to day business.

Members of the public are welcome to attend by computer, mobile or landline, the links to the meetings are available on the agenda and on the website. We also post this information on Facebook.

Meeting dates for the coming months:

Wednesday 28th October 2020

Wednesday 25th November 2020

No meeting in December 2020

Wednesday 27th January 2021

Reporting issues online:

For speed related issues

www.dorsetroadsafe.org.uk/enforcement-operations/reporting-traffic-concerns/

For Road fault issues

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement.aspx

For Rights of way issues

<https://mapping.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/rightsofway/reportproblem>

For flooding issues

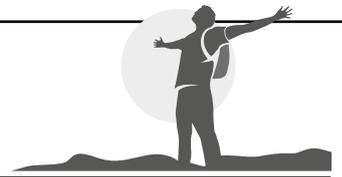
www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/flooding/report-flooding.aspx

To contact the Parish Council please email the Clerk

winterbornestmartin@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

or call on **07814 016971**

The Mileaters Walks



The Other Winterborne...

Our first walk in October took fifteen Mileaters to the valley of the other Winterborne in Dorset just this side of Wimborne beside the A31. This 6 mile flat terrain expedition started in Almer at the church of St.Mary next to the Elizabethan manor. The church is Saxon in origin, has Norman features and has the remains of a medieval preaching cross. From there we walked on wide walkways making it easy to socially distance. We made our way to Winterborne Zelston alongside the dry river bed (it is a "winter borne" after all) and through the picturesque village with another medieval preaching cross.

En route we passed one of the "famous"



red signposts of Dorset and arrived at marvellous Norman church at Winterborne Tomson (St.Andrews), a church that Thomas Hardy rescued with restoration funds. Still with its 17th century pews and orchestra

gallery. After coffee at Winterborne Tomson we walked around the grounds of Anderson Manor home to the Tregonwells for nearly 300 years, which was the base to the No.62 Commando unit between 1940 and 1943. We passed St Michaels church Anderson, it has 12th Century origins with a mostly 17th century outer.

Though the countryside and back to W. Zelston for lunch and a quick hop back to Almer. A walk of historic churches and manor houses.

"A good time was had by all."

Tom Webb

Dorsetshire Gap Mileaters Walk...



17 'raring to go' Mileaters set off to walk the short circular course of approx 4.5miles. However, the initial section was a steep uphill gradient that left the group with little breath for talking. Never known them so quiet! Once on top of Nettlecombe Tout a well earned breather was had whilst we learned some of the History of the Hill Fort and Geography of the area.

A pleasant downhill stroll ensued over Cross Dykes and Earthworks towards our coffee stop. The slope being gentle meant the views could be enjoyed without having to watch foot placements. Nick believes that on a good day Glastonbury Tor can be seen from up there. We looked but couldn't see the Tor but could

make out Hardy's monument in the distance. The views were worth the slog.

After coffee on a sunny grass bank (socially distanced) we continued with a ramble across fields that brought us to Higher Melcombe, these days just a Manor house and farm. The original village, mentioned in the Doomsday Book, was called Melcombe Horsey having 33 inhabitants is no longer present. These days remains of the village can only be seen on maps and from a couple of viewing points along the route.

A more gentle incline takes us up to the Dorsetshire Gap a major crossroads in days gone by, the Spaghetti Junction of its time and

possibly the route through which the Black Death spread to the Midlands and the North having alighted from Europe via Melcome (adjacent to Weymouth but an important port in the 1300s.) The 'Black Death' was responsible for the death of 30-50% of the 5 million population in England.

Once back on the top lunch was partaken in a sheltered spot and the sun came out again so that we could enjoy the views for a second time. Despite the lovely situation some members had to get back to take part in a WI zoom meeting and we all know from the Pantomime that "nobody messes with the WI".

Martin Usherwood

Forecast or Fable?

by David Haslam

It hasn't just been the blackberries that have been in abundance this year. Over the past few weeks you could walk almost anywhere in the valley and see berries galore – elderberries, rowan, sloe, holly, hawthorn, rosehip – even a damson tree or two. Berries are one of the delights of the season. As Izaak Walton wrote all those centuries ago, "Doubtless God Could Have Made A Better Berry, But Doubtless God Never Did."

But the key question, triggered by this year's profusion of berries, is... does this mean we are headed for a harsh winter? The idea that the more berries there are, the colder the winter ahead, is an old wives' tale that has been around for centuries, though I should immediately apologise for a description that is apparently both ageist and sexist, and apparently disrespectful of the ancient institute of marriage. "Old wives' tale" is probably no longer an acceptable term to use in the world of 2020.

In my limited defence, the original use of the word "wife" comes from the Old English word "wif" which simply meant "woman" and had nothing to do with marriage. Indeed,

the phrase "old wives' tales" has existed for centuries. In 1611, the Kings James Bible included this translation of a verse in the first Epistle to Timothy:

"But refuse profane and old wives' fables and exercise thyself rather unto godliness" (1 Timothy 4:7). Don't ever say Valley and Valence isn't educational.

The idea that an excess of berries predicts a cold winter is one of countless aspects of weather folklore that we still take note of. Classics include "Red sky at night, Shepherd's delight. Red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning", or my late mother-in-law's firm belief that if the cows are lying down, it is about to rain. My mother-in-law

lived in Shropshire. Close observation of Martinstown cows on my daily walks tell me that they have never been fully briefed



about this. Their lying and standing seems to be almost completely random. A bit like our weather.

And as for the question about whether we are facing a really cold winter, only time will tell.

House Martins in September...

by Fran Taylor

One morning, in late September, I pulled back my bedroom curtains to be greeted by a flotilla of House Martins, flying up close to my bedroom window and then veering away. So close, I decided to shut it in case of unwanted guests. There must have been about 30 birds or more zooming in and then turning away. This behaviour was then continued at the front of the house but as fast as they had arrived, they were gone. Next morning, they returned for a repeat performance. This time it was slightly different as a few of them peeled away from the flock and set about examining the R.S.P.B nests which had been in place underneath the eaves for some years. These had been used in the past but not recently. Now, investigation completed, they took off and disappeared once more. I thought they were all gone until next year.



House Martins arrive in the UK between March and April and remain until September or October and then migrate South. This flock

were probably gathering in preparation to leave but mysteriously not all of them left. It wasn't many days before I became aware of some activity around the nests. Insistent chirping announced the presence of chicks and adults could be seen tending to their

young, flying here and there returning with food for their hungry family. How could this be, so late in the season? But there they were and there they remained until one day the

weather changed dramatically with howling winds accompanying torrential rain.

After that, the parents were no longer seen incessantly feeding and the chicks fell silent. Too young to fly they would have been unable to fend for themselves. The outcome, sadly, would be inevitable!

However, there is a positive sign that next year these parents may return as House Martins often return to their traditional nest sites. Some years ago in the nest building season a homemade nest was constructed under the eaves alongside the fakes. It was used for several years until the 'Beast from the East' swept through and destroyed that nest leaving a crumpled mass in the garden and the simple outline of the original.

After this most recent disappearance I noticed the early beginnings of a nest on that site. So perhaps they may come back. I do hope so, I miss their cheerful optimism!

THE WINTERBOURNE COMMUNITY TRUST

...is here to support individuals and families experiencing financial hardship in these difficult times.

We can offer grants to help with everyday living expenses and some practical support.

We cover Martinstown, Winterborne Steepleton and Winterborne Abbas.

ALL ENQUIRES ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

Please contact:

Frances Clifford on 889400 or 07780441043 frances_clifford@hotmail.com

or Jan Griffiths on 889783 j.griffiths127@btinternet.com or Joy Parsons on 889611

A helpline for vulnerable people in need of
vital support in the Dorset Council area

01305 221000

communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

USEFUL CONTACT ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

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.firstgroup.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: FREEPHONE 105 • www.powercut105.com

Gas Emergencies

Tel: 0800 111999

Drains/Water Emergencies

Tel: 0845 7300600

Flooding Enquiries

Local Flood Warden (S.Slade) Tel: 01305 889411

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 1PW

Tel: 01305 269444 • www.ageuk.org.uk

Dorchester Poverty Action Group

Are you one of the financially lucky ones during the Coronavirus epidemic that has actually more money in your bank account than normal? In DT1 and DT2 many people are not so fortunate for a variety of different reasons, some work related, others due to difficult family situations.

Dorchester Poverty Action has been there all through Coronavirus supporting local people in DT1 and DT2 making grants of up to £200 to local people who have hit a financial crisis, at the request of a professional worker or agency who knows their circumstances

There are many local people who live on a low income but manage their finances very efficiently so do not normally need help, but this year, even the most careful have been very badly hit. DPA has helped 46 families so far since April, totalling £7,701 for things like basic white goods for people being rehoused from abusive situations, school uniform for children returning to school after months at home, washing machines that are beyond repair, beds for growing youngsters.

With no fund-raising events, Dorchester Poverty Action is depending on the generosity of local people who perhaps realise that they have not spent as much this year as they usually do. Please consider if you are one of these good people and make a donation by visiting our website:

www.dorchesterpovertyaction.org.uk

You can give online or by BACS or send a cheque to:

**Dorchester Poverty Action,
c/o United Church Dorchester,
49-51 Charles Street, Dorchester
DT1 1EE.**

Dorchester Poverty Action is a local charity serving people in the DT1 and DT2 postcode area. It was set up in 1993 as a registered charity by Churches Together in Dorchester and is run by 5 volunteer trustees and an advisory group who are all volunteers. It has no office base so is run with minimum administrative costs. Its income comes from local people, organisations, churches and trusts plus, in normal years, several fund-raising events, none of which has been possible this year.

Recycling, Rubbish & Garden Waste Collection Dates

NOVEMBER 2020

5th (Thursday) – **recycling and food**

19th (Thursday) – **recycling and food**

12th (Thursday) – **rubbish and food**

26th (Thursday) – **rubbish and food**

11th (Wednesday) – **garden waste**

25th (Wednesday) – **garden waste**

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