

# Valley & Valence

*The Parish Magazine for  
Winterborne St Martin, Winterbourne Abbas,  
Winterbourne Steepleton and Compton Valence*



February 2008

*Flowers Flowers Flowers*  
**FOR ALL YOUR FLORAL**  
**ARRANGEMENTS**

*Dates to remember :- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February Valentine's Day  
and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Mother's Day*

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## **THE BENEFICE**

**Priest in Charge**

**Revd. Rosemary Bassett**

**The Rectory**

**Martinstown.**

**Tel: 01305/ 889466**

Please let Rosemary know of anyone sick or in hospital who would like a visit, or anyone housebound who would like to receive Holy Communion at home.

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

### **FUNERALS.**

9th January 2008 – Dorothy Steer – Winterbourne Abbas

10th January 2008 – Maria Jan Richardson - Steepleton

### **SUNDAY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY**

**3rd February Presentation of Christ Malachi 3: 1 - 5**  
**in the Temple Hebrews 2: 14 - 18**  
**Luke 2: 22 - 40**

**10th February 1st of Lent Genesis 2: 15 - 17, 3: 1 - 7**  
**Romans 5: 12 - 19**  
**Matthew 4: 1 - 11**

**17th February 2nd of Lent Genesis 12: 1 - 4a**  
**Romans 4: 1 - 5, 13 - 17**  
**John 3: 1 - 17**

**24th February 3rd of Lent Exodus 17: 1 - 7**  
**Romans 5: 1 - 11**  
**John 4: 5 - 42**

### **COMPTON VALENCE**

#### **CHURCH FLOWER & CLEANING ROTA**

**Dates and names starting after Lent will appear  
in the March issue of Valley & Valence**

# THE VICAR WRITES



Dear Friends.

The feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple marks the end of the Christmas season and so the cribs will disappear from our churches as we turn our thoughts towards Lent and our Lord's passion. Easter is very early this year, which means that we move straight into Lent on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, as we celebrate Ash Wednesday.

As I write this we are approaching the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and I am conscious that there are many parishioners in this Benefice who are members of other denominations but who also worship with us on occasions. We would be delighted if you would like to join us during Lent for one of our courses or for our Lent Lunches. During Lent we shall be running 2 courses, the York course on the Lord's prayer on Wednesday afternoons at Poundbury and 'Christ and the Chocolaterie' on Thursday evenings at 5, Hardy Close. If there is sufficient demand this course will also run on Wednesday evenings at the Rectory. (See Church News for more details) Because of the success over the past 2 years of our Lent Lunches we are now moving to larger premises namely Martinstown Village Hall. The cost of the lunch of soup and ploughman's will be £3.50 with all profits going to a local charity. If you would like to join us please phone Jan (889875) or Rosemary (889466) to book your place. The first lunch will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm.

We live in a very pressurised, busy world, but Lent gives us an opportunity to seek some space for silence. I therefore invite anyone who would like to join me for a period of silence on Wednesday evenings in Martinstown church from 5.30 –6pm. Just come along for all or part of the time.

Yours in Christ

Rosemary

## CHURCH NEWS

**LENT COURSES** – The **York course**, a five part course on the **Lord's Prayer** with Bishop Kenneth Stevenson, Canon Margaret Sentamu, Dr David Wilkinson & Dr Elaine Storkey. This will be run on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30pm at 8, Fleur de Lis, Poundbury, starting on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

The Home Group at 5, Hardy Close will focus on chocolate in their Lent course. The title of the course is '**Christ and the Chocolaterie**'. It uses as its starting point the film '*Chocolat*' based on the book by Joanne Harris. During the five sessions there are opportunities to explore some of the issues raised by the film, including human relationships, feelings of guilt, response to external pressure, setting and maintaining standards and the impact of change. The course starts on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. Because membership will be limited, if there is a demand the course will also run at the Rectory on Wednesday evenings starting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February. If you are interested in any of these courses please contact Nigel (889910) or Rosemary (889466) as soon as possible, as books need to be purchased, or sign the list in Martinstown church.

### LOVE LIFE LIVE LENT

Last year over 130,000 adults and children nationwide took part in Love Life Live Lent and in 2008 Love Life Live Lent 2 is set to be even bigger! Love Life Live Lent booklets contain 50 simple things to do during Lent: one action for each day. These actions help us to love our neighbours – not just the people who live next door or those with whom we work or study, but also the marginalized and those on the other side of the world.

50 simple actions – Love your neighbour – Transform your community – Connect with God. Make sure you get your free booklet.

### LENT LUNCHESES

This year our Lent Lunches will be in Martinstown Village Hall, starting on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February from 12.30pm – 1.30pm. The cost of the lunch of soup and ploughman's will be £3.50 with all profits going to a local charity. We do hope many from the Benefice will come and join us. To book your place, please phone Jan (889875) or Rosemary (889466).

## **LENT READING**

This year the Archbishop of Canterbury's official Lent book is 'Life Conquers Death' by John Arnold. Meditations on the Garden, the Cross, and the Tree of Life. If you prefer some daily readings there is a new book by David Winter – 'Journey to Jerusalem' Bible readings from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. Both these books priced £8.99 & £7.99 can be purchased from Sarum College Bookshop Tel 01722/326899.

## **From Tonga to Samoa**

Women's World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer held on the first Friday in March each year. The day of prayer begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific and continues across each continent until the last Services of the special day are held back in the Pacific on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in prayer for about 36 hours. **Join one of our local services to be held in Dorchester Baptist Church on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.**

### **Women's World Day of Prayer**

#### Coffee Morning

United Church Hall, South Street, Dorchester

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 9.45 a.m.**

Jewellery, Books, Cakes, CDs & DVDs, Bric-a-brac  
Red & Yellow Stall (Donate items to Maggie Robertson)  
Entrance 60p (including coffee and biscuit)

## **WINTERBORNE ST. MARTIN ELECTORAL ROLL**

The Martinstown church electoral roll will be reviewed during February and March. If you are not already included on the current Roll and wish your name to be added, forms may be found in the church or can be obtained from Rosemary or Bruce Robertson (phone: 880008).

Completed forms must be received by 19th March so that the revised roll can be prepared in advance of the **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** to be held on **Sunday, 6th April at 6 p.m.** in the Parish Church.

## MARIA JAN RICHARDSON 1967—2007

In these days when Octogenarians are so commonplace it is indeed a tragedy when Death claims someone just half that age and in the prime of their life. One such person was Maria Jan Richardson who had been born within our Valley Community to Tony and Margaret Weller where she was a welcome daughter to join a little flock of brothers in the family home up at Clandon Farm cottages. Since my late husband also worked on the same farm our sons were part of that little group. Naturally Maria attended the Martinstown village school before continuing her education in Dorchester. At that time all believed that life was long lasting so it was a cruel blow for Maria to lose her brave fight against cancer.

Any excuse to hold a party and Maria was at the centre of the organisation, such was her zest for fun. No half measures, like when she dressed up as Wonder Woman - complete with red tights and boots. Wonder Woman indeed, for coping with a terminal illness and at the same time keeping up appearances in order to try and spare her family stressful worry. A short life maybe, but one that had a great impact on many people who will remember her contributions to their lives with affection and joyful thanks that they had known her.

Even the skies wept on the grey day of her funeral. St Martin's church had every available seat filled and the standing room crowded with those paying their last respectful farewells. From the many tributes paid to her and those wonderfully touching poems so bravely read, it was obvious that Maria loved life to the full both in her work and at the heart of her family. The Service was a most wonderful and memorable celebration of her life and the love she shared with all her family.

It was most appropriate that colourful balloons reminded us all not to be sad but to be happy for having shared her life. It is most fitting that she has been laid to rest in the lovely little churchyard of St Michael's, so near the family home in Winterbourne Steepleton.

A bright Star may have faded from the lives of her family but her sheer vitality and courage will shine forever in their memories and be a beacon for future generations to follow. The prayers and wholehearted sympathies from the Valley Community are with them all.

M.M.

## **A Lenten Reflection.**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and a principal day of penitence in the Christian year. If the Lenten season is to be a season of growth in our spiritual lives then we first have to acknowledge and express our need of repentance. Our need of forgiveness not only for our own individual sins but for the sins of the church, the sins of society as a whole, and the sins of the world of which we are a part, which mars God's creation; our failures to speak out against injustice, oppression and the moral issues, which confront us.

The Greek word for repentance 'metanoia' means a change of mind, a reorientation, a fundamental transformation of outlook, of one's vision of the world and of one's self, and a new way of loving others and God. A turning around from ourselves to face God so that during the time of Lent we may come closer to him and be more prepared to journey with him through the events of Holy Week and then experience the joy of Easter.

The prophet Joel says, "Return to the Lord your God for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love." None of us is exempt from the need for repentance and the transformation of our lives. We know that we have a God of unconditional love who waits patiently and longingly for us to turn to him, so that he can forgive us and welcome us back no matter what we have done. For no sin is too great that it cannot be brought to the cross, no sin is too great that it cannot be forgiven.

So Lent is a time to take stock of our lives, to look afresh at our relationship with God, with other people and within ourselves. Lent is a time of forgiveness from God, but also a time for our own forgiveness of one another, a letting go of past resentments and past hurts and the breaking down of the barriers which separate us from one other. No matter how non-religious, unspiritual or unprayerful we may feel or think ourselves to be, there is within each one of us a deep longing for God. That longing St Augustine recognised as he looked back on his life and wrote "Thou hast made us, O Lord for thyself and our heart shall find no rest till it rest in thee."

Rosemary

## **The Spire at St. Michael's**

We are delighted that the cracked spire has now been rebuilt and are deeply thankful to all who gave towards the cost in answer to our local appeal. We can now pay the large bills. A large proportion of the cost is coming from grants, which we have been awarded by The Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT), and by The National Churches Trust (NCT). The DHCT does sterling work to help Dorset parishes keep their churches in good repair and aims to give out an average of £100,000 each year in grants. The Historic Churches Preservation Trust (HCPT) operates as a fund within the NCT, and has awarded over £28 million in grants since 1953 helping churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout the Country.

The average cost of repair work per building in 2006 was £185,000. This has risen from £82,000 in only 8 years. Because of this the Trusts are always seeking new ways to help the local people who are struggling with the management of their priceless buildings. The Trusts receive no financial aid from government or church authorities. Individuals can help by joining as a Friend for a modest yearly subscription and Gift membership is also available. The Trusts welcome enquiries about membership or offers of help and contact details are given below for anyone who may be interested in helping.

Trevor Bassett, The Rectory

**Dorset Historic Churches Trust**  
**Tel: 01935 872447**

**National Churches Trust Tel: 020 7600 6090**  
**Website [www.nationalchurchestrust.org](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org)**

## The Way Ahead

February 2008

This issue looks forward to Spring with snowdrops in Compton Valence, articles on St Valentine and Leap Year, and a poem on Daffodils from Arthur, who has also offered a piece about rainfall in 2007.

New Year's Day saw the launch of a new website about Martinstown [www.martinstown-news.co.uk](http://www.martinstown-news.co.uk) run by Graham Herbert at 1 Cowleaze. The website has the advantage of accepting photos and those already there are well worth a look. If any names are out of date for committees or activities do tell Graham. He will accept information at any time and get it onto the website within a week if not sooner. It is accessible by friends and relations anywhere in the world. The information should be much more up-to-date than the monthly magazine - no comfort to readers without computers!

At present I am conscious that Valley & Valence is, perhaps inevitably, focussed on Martinstown and that there are three other parishes to recognise. Last month I managed to fill a page with Compton Valence items and I would very much like to have a regular contribution from each parish. I have started with "Local" input from Martinstown and the Winterbournes (Abbas and Steepleton). Maybe I can find a Compton Valence reporter when I go to see the snowdrops.

Writing about paper, I put a note in this issue about WasteWatch. I was then delighted to hear that a part-time "Second Home" resident of Martinstown, "to help the village" has donated no less than 30,000 sheets of paper to the magazine printing press run by Monica.

Concerning the Children's Page I would welcome any suggestions or indeed assistance to make it more interesting. (Snazzy, where are you??)

I wish our school head teacher, Rachel, a full recovery from her recent indisposition and look forward to putting more news of the school in the next issue. In the meantime any news available from the school can be put onto the new website.

Brian B

## VALLEY CLUB

The forthcoming events in the club are as follows:-

**February 9<sup>th</sup>** There will be a Barn Dance in the Village Hall. The band will 'Jump to the Sun' which is the one we enjoyed last year and the year before. There will be a ploughman's supper and a cash bar. Tickets are £ 8.00 for club members and £10 for non members; they are available in the shop or through committee members.

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** There will be talk by James Foster Pegg (who gave the talk on Organic Pest Control a few months ago). This time he will be talking about the medal winning garden realised by Brimsore Gardens, the parent company of Poundbury Gardens, at the Chelsea Flower show, its planning, construction and exhibition.

For the future we have proposals for a tour of Longford Castle house and gardens possibly on May15<sup>th</sup>, a visit to the upper parts of Salisbury Cathedral in the Autumn of 2008, and for further interesting speakers and visits.

A reminder, meetings of the Valley Club are normally on the third Monday of the month.

**Ian Gibson 889328**

### 100 CLUB WINNERS

#### November

£25 Dennis Legg  
£10 John Marsh      £5 Nigel Tooth

#### December

£25 Ann Armstrong  
£10 Margaret Ashworth      £5 Maureen Marchant



## **MARTINSTOWN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

February 2008

The speaker at the first meeting of 2008 was local resident Sue Wylie, who gave us a very entertaining talk on the experiences of an actress. Sue's lifelong ambition was to be an actress even from the age of 6 when she made her debut at school in a play about Noah's Ark as "Mrs Noah"! She told us of the difficulties and ups and downs of an actor's life - working with a repertory company, touring the country, the occasional TV performance, and even on radio in *The Archers*. (This certainly pleased one avid Archer fan in the audience!). Although now settled in Dorset with her family, Sue is still pursuing her love of drama with her one woman show "In Search of Stardom" – well worth seeing if you get the opportunity.

Thanks to Monica Ellis and Alison Stephens for providing refreshments.

Scrabble will be on 7<sup>th</sup> February at 1 Hardy Close as usual.

At the next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February the speaker will be Alistair Cooper on "Organic Farming".

*Angela Barrett*

## **WASTE WATCH WORTH £25,000 IN THE BANK??**

Here are a few simple figures to consider. If you invested £25,000 in a bank and were paid, say, 5% interest less 20% tax to the government you would actually receive £1,000 each year.

In Martinstown, volunteers have been running the Waste Watch paper collection scheme for 18 years and are currently raising about £1,000 each year. It is then spent on village amenities varying from more roadside bulbs for the spring daffodil display, to the bench on the village green, and help for the Winterbourne Valley Toddler Group.

I was recently reminded of the scheme, and a New Year's Resolution is to bundle up my old newspapers and glossy magazines (in separate tied bundles) and put them in one of the two dark green chest freezers by the Village Hall and the Parish Office. I am still happy for the council to collect cardboard and other wastepaper each fortnight.

I bet you never thought your old newspapers could be a substitute for £25,000 in the bank!!

## **55 Forum Dorchester and District Senior Citizens Group**

The Forum will be holding the next Open Meeting at the Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Culliford Road North, Dorchester, at 2 pm. on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

Jan Bergman, the Chief Executive of the Dorset County Hospital Foundation Trust has been invited to give a talk and representatives from the Dorset Police Force will explain about home security. All are welcome.

## MARTINSTOWN CRICKET CLUB

At the end of season dinner, the Cricket Club celebrated a very successful season. There had been promotion for both the Evening League team, led by Lee House, and the Saturday League team, led by Nick Quintrell. Steve Clifford, Dan Belt and Ed Nichols from Martinstown all received awards from the Dorchester Evening League, and the team also reached the semi final of the Knock out cup.

The youngsters, so ably coached and supported by Jon Nichols and his team of helpers, also did well, but most satisfyingly many have been moved up into the League teams to play with the big boys. This has put the places of many of the older players at risk, as the youngsters are so good.

In addition, the Club went on Tour to Cornwall - a mixed band of players and some supporters, who all had a wonderful time, winning both their games against Perranporth and Mawnan Smith teams. "We must do this again next year" is the cry.

The following received Club trophies for the season:

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Batting                  | Tom Adams      |
| Bowling                  | Stu Fry        |
| All rounder              | Ed Nichols     |
| Clubman of the Year      | Paul Milverton |
| Young Player of the Year | Liam Bamfield  |
| "Champagne Moment"       | Jack Howard    |

The dinner was followed on the Sunday by the AGM, when it was proposed to enter another team into the Dorchester Evening League. This will enable many of the younger players to get regular League games at a reasonable competitive level.

We would like to thank all those in the Valley who support our Club in many ways - Jumble Sales, Quiz nights, buying fruit and veg. from our stall, and turning up to enjoy our home matches in such a wonderful setting. All this is very much appreciated, and enables the Club to provide a first class facility for the youngsters (and oldsters) of our villages and surrounding area.

As the season progresses, we will try and keep you informed of our home fixtures, and invite you all to turn up and enjoy a traditional game of village cricket.

Pat Bailey, Club Secretary

**WINTERBOURNE VALLEY**  
**TODDLER GROUP**



**MEET**  
**MONDAY MORNINGS**  
10am ~ 12 Noon

**MARTINSTOWN**  
**VILLAGE HALL**



We are a small friendly group.  
All bumps, babies, and toddlers welcome.  
Come along for coffee/squash and a chat/play.

Contact Kay (Chairperson) on 01305 889140

**Winterbourne Valley**  
**Toddler Group**

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who bought a quiz. The winner of the Christmas Hamper was Steve Broadhurst with an amazing score of only 7 wrong answers! Through everyone's support, we managed to raise £150 and this has already been spent on some much needed baby activity gyms. Well done to everyone who sent in their answers and thank you to the Brewers Arms, the Village Shop and Stevens Farm Shop for their wonderful sales efforts.

We would also like to thank the Martinstown Waste Watch group for their very generous donation to our funds. We will now be able to relax and enjoy the rest of the year without the pressure of fundraising.

Membership of the Toddler Group continues to grow, with a baby boy arriving just before Christmas to Serena Young and Paul Morris. Congratulations to you both and we look forward to seeing Ellis very soon.

We are now planning to continue through the school holidays so if you would like to come and join us we will be at the village hall every Monday (unless it's a bank holiday) from 10am to 12pm.

Kay Dawson    Chairperson    01305 889140

**“OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES AND SUCKLINGS!”**

“Why do all those footballers kiss each other on telly?  
They're not married. They're not even engaged!!”

## WINTERBOURNE VALLEY CE VA FIRST SCHOOL

### **Editor's Note**

On going to press, the Head Teacher, Mrs Horne had been ill and was not able to write for the magazine.

As an alternative I have taken the liberty of reading the OFSTED website, after the school was inspected last November with highly satisfactory results. I thought it worth extracting a few comments.

*This is a good and improving school. Its strengths include a supportive Christian ethos, outstanding leadership by the head teacher and an excellent partnership with parents, the local community and outside agencies such as neighbouring schools.*

*The creation of the new Foundation Unit ensures that children enter a caring community from the moment they start school. Pupils' behaviour and attitudes to learning are excellent and they share excellent relationships. Pupils enjoy school as seen in their good attendance.*

*The school's inclusive Christian ethos underpins the pupils' excellent spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and their outstanding contributions to the school and wider community. Consequently, pupils say, 'We're safe.'*

As a grandparent, I can say that I very much enjoyed the school's Nativity Play and the Christmas church services when the pupils took part..

The list of pupils on the School Council is changed regularly to give everyone a chance. This means I will not put it in the magazine again as it would probably be out of date.

Fundraising by the PTFA continues with an Easter Egg Hunt in March and a Fashion Show in April. Details are elsewhere in this magazine.



1<sup>st</sup> Martinstown Brownies,  
c/o 3 Cromwell Road  
DORCHESTER DT1 2DN  
T 01305 265574  
e: Lisa.u@virgin.net

## 1<sup>st</sup> Martinstown Brownies

February 2008

Last term finished with a “X-Factor” style party and all the Brownies enjoyed performing in front of their friends. Some sang, some danced and some played instruments. All the acts were so good that we didn’t have any need for any Simon Cowell type comments. Also on the last meeting Millie was presented with her Pack Leader badge. Millie has been a marvellous asset to the unit.

Sophie, one of our young leaders has decided to leave as there is the ever pressing pressure of exams. We wish her luck and thank her for her help.

This term the Brownies will be taking a new badge “Brownie Skills”. This will involve packing an overnight bag, reading timetables to plan a bus and train journey and packing a healthy packed lunch. The new Brownies will be finishing their promise books and making their promise.

We have received some lovely gifts from our twin pack in Canada and hope to send them some Thinking Day cards and gifts in return.

At the moment we are a small but very busy pack. If your daughter is aged 7-10 and would like to join us please contact Brown Owl (Lisa Upward) on [lisa.u@virgin.net](mailto:lisa.u@virgin.net).

Happy New Year.

The Owls

## **Royal British Legion (Abbotsbury & Portesham Branch)**

February 2008

It is with regret that we record the death of **Kenneth Webley**. Ken was Branch Chairman for many years. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Olivia and family.

We also record the death of **Nellie Humpherstone** who was formerly a Branch member and latterly a staunch supporter of the Women's Section.

Four Branch members attended the RBL **County Conference** at Blandford on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

Future events include:-

**Holiday on Ice "Romanza"**:- Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February.

**Annual Branch Dinner** takes place at Upwey Wishing Well on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, **National Conference** at Stockport on 17-18<sup>th</sup> May.

**ICELAND TOUR:** I have a very few seats left for this 8-day tour.

For more details of the above items visit [www.martinstown-news.co.uk](http://www.martinstown-news.co.uk) or contact me.

Des Baker (Branch Vice Chairman) Tel 01305 267617

## **2007 POPPY APPEAL RESULTS**

The Dorchester, Martinstown, Abbas and Monkton collections realised a total of £21,251-06P with some further Donation Cheques still awaited. The Martinstown contribution to the total was £420-65P.

As always, much of the money donated was in small change which explains why it has taken so long after the event for the total to be confirmed.

Once again, thank you to all the collectors and contributors. Without your help, the vital welfare and benevolent work would be unable to continue.

Happy New Year to you all,  
Eileen Hobday.

# MARTINSTOWN VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

## News and events

**ANN MATTHEWS Telephone 889248**

Fund-raising is a slow process, but we now know that the total we have to find is £140,000-. This is needed to pay for the annex and the kitchen. As you can appreciate, raising this amount will take a lot of effort, but I am still trying, and will do my best. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

### SHORT MAT BOWLING

**Every Wednesday evening 7.30 to 9.30pm**

Cost £1-50 each. Plus 20p for a cup of tea.

We have the bowls.

You bring your own warm socks!



### BINGO ON FRIDAYS

**February 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Please come along and bring a friend.

### NEXT QUIZ NIGHT

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April Teams of 4 @ £1-50 each £6 per team**

\*\*\*\*\*

### ARTSREACH - THE POLISH PLAY

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm

This is a piece of storytelling made specially for village halls. It is part village dance and part afternoon tea. This is the tale of a daughter who leaves Poland and comes to your village to start a career as a nanny. She is accompanied by her anxious father who worries about change and reminisces about the past.

Using an accordion, home movies, Yuri Gagarin and the 1974 World Cup Finals, this is a story about belonging, growing up, and our place in the world.

**TICKETS** from **Ann Salmon on 889059** and nearer the time from the **Brewers Arms, Londis shop, and the Farm Shop**

## **“DO AS MUCH AS YOU FEEL LIKE”**

**The Martinstown Keep Fit group for the over 40s**

**Friday Mornings from 10-11 in the VILLAGE HALL**

It's fun, we have a qualified instructor and all feel better afterwards

Contact **Margaret Ashworth** on **889268**

£3 a session or just turn up

## **MARTINSTOWN CRICKET CLUB JUMBLE SALE IN THE VILLAGE HALL on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008**

We would be most grateful for any jumble, bric-a-brac, toys, books etc. you can spare. Please deliver to the hall on the morning of the sale or, if you are having a pre-Christmas clear out, contact Mike Clarke on 889354 or John O'Brien on 889345 for collection.

## **VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS**

**The Booking Secretary is Tessa Clark**  
**and her telephone number is 01305-889493**  
**Please call between 9am and 8pm only**

## **STRAY DOG SANCTUARY**

Completely voluntary organisation

rehoming unwanted dogs in local area

Many breeds available for homing - Home Check and Adoption Fee

We always collect collars, leads, and unwanted dog food

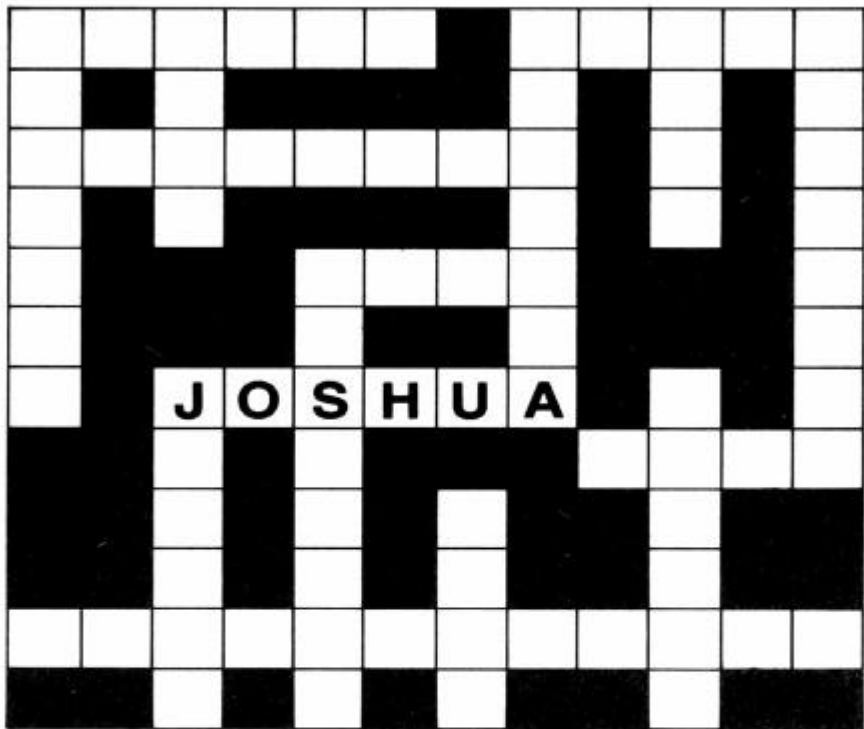
Telephone **Judy** on **01305 696685**

Also stray dogs at Woodlands, Bridport

Telephone **Mary** on **01308 423104**

Website [www.straydogssanctuary.co.uk](http://www.straydogssanctuary.co.uk)

## WORD-FIT



See if you can fit these words into their correct positions in the diagram. **JOSHUA** has been written in to help start the puzzle.

### 4 letters

Ezra  
Jude  
Nuns  
Ruth  
Veil

### 5 letters

Creed

### 6 letters

Jordan  
~~Joshua~~  
Miriam  
Sunday

### 7 letters

Cecilia  
Michael

### 8 letters

Catholic  
Damascus  
Vestment

### 12 letters

Stained glass

## **SNOWDROPS IN SPRINGTIME AT COMPTON VALENCE**



See the snowdrops at their best  
and enjoy a Snowdrop Lunch or Tea in the Village  
Hall.

The weeks beginning 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February are confirmed as  
favourite for next month.

If interested then call Pippa James 01305 889338 or  
Sarah Sclater 01308 482231 to confirm the snowdrops are in  
bloom and also on what days lunches and teas will be available.  
Money raised benefits Compton Valence Church and village  
hall.

## **Easter Egg Hunt Saturday 15th March**

The PTFA from Winterbourne Valley First School are  
organising an Easter Egg Hunt to be held in Martinstown on  
Saturday 15th March. We will meet on the village green at 10:30  
and will be finishing at the Brewers Arms. Cost per child will be  
£1.50 and ALL children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Brewers will have its usual selection of snacks and  
lunches available for all those who need refreshments. This will  
include an 8" yorkshire pudding with 2 sausages in an ale and  
onion gravy with carrot and mashed potato @ £6.99!

For any further information please contact either Lorna  
Miles (Chair PTFA) on 889197 or Tessa Ferguson (Secretary  
PTFA) on 889077.

## DAFFODILS - A DORSET SONNET

I love the fields of daffodils that are with beauty crown'd,  
Their tossing shining golden heads all carpeting the ground.  
And when the sun, that glorious orb illumines their delight  
Then shall we truly, clearly see their beauty in fair light.  
I know there's beauty everywhere in Nature's glorious realm  
But surely 'tis the daffodil that does the mind o'erwhelm.  
There cannot be a fairer flower in all creation's space  
Or any blossom which presents a comelier smiling face  
When February comes and March, these harbingers of Spring  
Arise and toss their golden heads to help the world to sing.  
Our winter-weary eyes attune to greet this welcome sight  
The darkest days are lengthening, and shorter grows the night.  
You wonder where this magic lies? I bid you come on down -  
This wond'rous golden carpet is right here in Martinstown!

Arthur T. Singleton

## WORDS, WORDS

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 5 most important words | I am proud of you     |
| 4 most important words | What is your opinion? |
| 3 most important words | If you please         |
| 2 most important words | Thank you             |
| Least important word   | I                     |

## MARTINSTOWN WEATHER 2007

For those whose memories take them back to the Guinness record days of July, 1955, the last year has not approached those momentous levels, However, the year in general must be considered to have been at least somewhat soggy and the total precipitation turned out to be 2026 mm. or if you prefer to use the Imperial equivalent, some 79.2 inches, which we suppose is about twice the expected downfall.

The monthly readings varied from the comparatively dry September with 58mm (about 2.3 inches) to February (Filldyke?) with 267 mm or over 10 inches! It is said incidentally that the reference to Filldyke meant that ditches needed filling rather than an expected deluge!

Obviously this is an annual report, but if there is interest in having it more often, we can provide it monthly. please advise the Editor if this is required.

Incidentally, as we write this, the readings to date (12th. January) show that the Blagdon Met Centre (aka 1 Blagdon Close!) has recorded some 4 inches of the wet stuff (perhaps you have noticed this as you prepare to hang out your washing!).

Arthur and Ann Singleton

**Editor's Note (from the Internet!)** A typical February is mild and stormy, occasionally producing heavy snow. It is known as "February filldyke" but this has become a misnomer: When the dykes are full in February, later droughts are very unlikely.

## SEED SWAP

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 12 noon to 2pm**

**At The Brewer's Arms**

As you begin to think about your garden or vegetable plot, how about growing some new varieties? Come along to the pub and swap some of your seeds and wait & see what happens! For part packets of swapped seeds you may like to bring a few envelopes.

## St Valentine's Day History

**St. Valentine** was a priest in Rome, and was condemned to death on February 14th 269 A.D. after it was discovered that he had been helping Christian martyrs and secretly marrying couples. The emperor Claudius II had prohibited men in his army to marry, as he felt their strength would be sapped!

Before his execution **St. Valentine** left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, signed 'From Your **Valentine**', and so began the tradition of sending a card from a secret admirer.



## 2008 is a Leap Year

Leap Year was the traditional time that women could propose marriage. In many of today's cultures, it is ok for a woman to propose marriage to a man. Society doesn't look down on such women. However, that hasn't always been the case. When the rules of courtship were stricter, women were only allowed to pop the question on one day every four years. *That day was February 29th.*

It is believed this tradition was started in 5th century Ireland when St. Bridget complained to St. Patrick about women having to wait for so long for a man to propose. So, according to legend, St. Patrick said the yearning females could propose on this one day in February during the **Leap Year**.

According to English law, February 29th was ignored and had no legal status. Folks assumed that traditions would also have no status on that day. It was also reasoned that since the **leap year** day existed to fix a problem in the calendar, it could also be used to fix an old and unjust custom that only let men propose marriage.

The first documentation of this practice dates back to 1288, when Scotland passed a law that allowed women to propose marriage to the man of their choice in that year. They also made it law that any man who declined a proposal in a **Leap Year** must pay a fine. The fine could range from a kiss to payment for a silk dress or a pair of gloves (I'm sure you girls can think of a better modern equivalent!).

*You are invited to an*

**"Off The Peg"**

*Fashion Show*

Do you need a few separates to liven up your wardrobe? Would you like to buy them at bargain prices? LOOK NO FURTHER. Come along and enjoy this evening of fashion and fun hosted by "Off The Peg".

This special event will be held on:- Friday 11th April 2008

At:- Martinstown Village Hall

Doors Open At:- 7:00pm

Show Starts At:- 7:30pm

To purchase tickets please contact:-

Lorna Miles on 01305 889197 or Gillian McCourtie on 01305 889139

Tickets are only £5 each (includes glass of wine) – all proceeds will go to Winterbourne Valley First School.

**NO ORDERING – TRY ON AND BUY ON THE NIGHT!  
PAY BY CASH, CHEQUE, CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD!**

"Off The Peg", 3, Primley Paddock, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 9LA. Tel: 01395 513864

## ADULT BRAIN TEASER

As I said earlier this quiz does not measure your intelligence, your fluency with words, and certainly not your mathematical ability. Take this as another challenge.

**Instructions:-** Each "equation" below contains the initial letters of words that will make it correct. E.g.:-

12 = M in a Y would be 12 = Months in a Year

**Complete the following 10 equations\*\*:-**

|    |                 |      |                      |
|----|-----------------|------|----------------------|
| 90 | = D in a R A    | 200  | = P for a PG in M    |
| 3  | = BM (SHTR)     | 4    | = Q in a G           |
| 24 | = H in a D      | 1    | = W on a U           |
| 57 | = HV            | 70   | = S L on a British M |
| C  | = S under a R C | 2.54 | = C in an I          |

**Solutions?** Next month plus another 10 equations.

### **December/January answers**

1000 Ways that a Person is Wise  
29 (Days) in February in a Leap Year  
64 Squares on a Chess Board  
11 Players in a Football Team  
76 Trombones led the Big Parade  
110 Cornets were Right Behind  
40,000 Feathers on a Thrush  
21 Guns in a Royal Salute  
2 Under Par is an Eagle at Golf  
1066 When Harold got Hit in the Eye

### **Editor's comment on brain teasers**

"I'm used to my arthritis, to my dentures I'm resigned.  
I can cope with my bi-focals, but Oh God! I miss my mind!!"

## WORD-FIT SOLUTION

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | I | R | I | A | M | C | R | E | E | D |
| I |   | U |   |   |   | E |   | Z |   | A |
| C | A | T | H | O | L | I | C |   | R | M |
| H |   | H |   |   |   | I |   | A |   | A |
| A |   |   |   | V | E | I | L |   |   | S |
| E |   |   |   | E |   | I |   |   |   | C |
| L |   | J | O | S | H | U | A |   | S | U |
|   |   | O | T |   |   |   |   | N | U | N |
|   |   | R |   | M |   | J |   |   | N |   |
|   |   | D |   | E |   | U |   |   | D |   |
| S | T | A | I | N | E | D | G | L | A | S |
|   |   | N |   | T |   | E |   |   | Y |   |



## News from the Martinstown LOCAL

New Year 2008

**Fancy Dress** Our thanks to all who turned up in fancy dress on New Years Eve. Prizes were given on the night to the best woman and man in costume and we hope that everyone enjoyed the evening whatever they were wearing.

**Quiz** The prize went by a very small margin to the 'NULLAN VOID team whose handwriting was excellent - 9/10. So excellent in fact that we wait with interest to see who actually turns up to claim the prize.

**Winter meals** Our thanks to all who venture out to the pub in this horrible weather. However, please note that we will not be cooking on Sunday evenings or Mondays for the next couple of months. Hours will be back to normal as spring approaches.

**Skittles** - The Brewers Wurzels beat our visitors, The Casuals, by 43 pins. The first home game of the year proved that the team are in full training and keen to get back after the Christmas lay off. Most of the visiting team arrived only 5 minutes late but needed a drink to get over their long journey from Dorchester. Their enthusiasm was evident throughout the evening as names were called for players to take their turn. The speed at which they tried to finish the bar billiards game before the money ran out was something to watch. There is mild panic spreading among the home team because we seem to be in the promotion zone. The highest scorer on the night was Mark Scotchmer with 54.

We did think of naming and shaming the lowest scorer but he threatened not to buy a round so the matter was dropped. OK, Colin had a valid excuse because the stream is running high and the damp raises the grain on the left hand side of the alley making the ball pull to the left. However, sometimes all the grain is raised and the ball goes slower and runs down the slope caused when the foundations slipped during the flood of 1955.

John and Jackie

# News from the Winterbournes LOCAL

New Year 2008

We would all like to send a 'Hello' and our Best Wishes to Michael Hallett, who has been in hospital since before Christmas. Big Hugs to you xxx

Donations to the Abbas and Steepleton Playground Fund are creeping up - slowly, but surely!

Finally, we are considering entering Worzel for next year's Strictly Come Dancing. His efforts on Friday evening to the fabulous music of 'Howling at the Moon' left us all in awe!

CHEERS!!!! Andy and Liz

**Editor's Note** Thanks - I hope this will be a regular feature of the magazine to keep us in touch with both Abbas and Steepleton.

## VALLEY AND VALENCE ADVERTISING RATES

There are 10 issues a year (Doubles for Dec/Jan and Jul/Aug).

Current rates for each issue are:-

for 1/3 page £6 - for ½ page £8- and for a full page £15-.

## MARTINSTOWN ON THE NET

This magazine and previous issues are now available at:-

[www.martinstown.co.uk/mag](http://www.martinstown.co.uk/mag)

If you can't wait for the next issue of Valley & Valence go to

[www.martinstown-news.co.uk](http://www.martinstown-news.co.uk)

For colour and photos as well as **“Have YOUR say”**

## VALLEY & VALENCE ~ NEXT ISSUE

Please send all copy for the next issue to Brian Braidwood, Jinga Cottage, Grove Hill, Martinstown DT2 9JP (Tel 01305 889895 or e-mail to [braidwood@braidwood.org.uk](mailto:braidwood@braidwood.org.uk)) by 16th of this month at the very latest. The Parish Letterbox is NO LONGER used to collect copy.

## THE BREWERS ARMS

YOUR VILLAGE PUB

01305 889361

**Wednesday QUIZ Night** New teams are always welcome.

**Thursday evenings NINTENDO Wii** competitions.

**POKER** Any volunteers? - Are you interested in playing poker for fun? If so, let us know because we would like to host a poker evening or even a regular Poker Night.

**FULL MENU** is available from Tuesday Lunchtime to Sunday Lunchtime.

**And Don't forget** –we offer **TAKEAWAY MEALS**

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HOMEMADE COTTAGE PIE SERVED  
WITH PEAS AND CARROTS or  
BATTERED COD FILLET SERVED WITH  
CHIPS AND PEAS  
APPLE CRUMBLE WITH CUSTARD  
or VANILLA ICE-CREAM

**THE COACH AND HORSES**

**LOCAL'S LUNCH 6 FEBRUARY 2008**

HOMEMADE COTTAGE PIE SERVED  
WITH PEAS AND CARROTS or  
BATTERED COD FILLET SERVED WITH  
CHIPS AND PEAS  
APPLE CRUMBLE WITH CUSTARD  
or VANILLA ICE-CREAM

**THE COACH AND HORSES**

**LOCAL'S LUNCH 13 FEBRUARY 2008**

HOMEMADE FAGGOTS SERVED WITH  
MASHED POTATO, PEAS & ONION  
GRAVY or BREADED SCAMPI SERVED  
WITH CHIPS AND PEAS  
APRICOT CRUMBLE FLAN & CUSTARD  
or ORANGE AND RASPBERRY TRIFLE

**THE COACH AND HORSES**

**LOCAL'S LUNCH 13 FEBRUARY 2008**

HOMEMADE FAGGOTS SERVED WITH  
MASHED POTATO, PEAS & ONION  
GRAVY or BREADED SCAMPI SERVED  
WITH CHIPS AND PEAS  
APRICOT CRUMBLE FLAN & CUSTARD  
or ORANGE AND RASPBERRY TRIFLE

**THE COACH AND HORSES**

**LOCAL'S LUNCH 20 FEBRUARY 2008**

CHICKEN BREAST WITH ROQUEFORT  
SAUCE, NEW POTATOES & VEG of DAY  
or COD FILLET WITH PARSLEY SAUCE,  
NEW POTATOES AND PEAS  
SPOTTED DICK WITH CUSTARD  
or PEACH MELBA SUNDAE

**THE COACH AND HORSES**

**LOCAL'S LUNCH 20 FEBRUARY 2008**

CHICKEN BREAST WITH ROQUEFORT  
SAUCE, NEW POTATOES & VEG of DAY  
or COD FILLET WITH PARSLEY SAUCE,  
NEW POTATOES AND PEAS  
SPOTTED DICK WITH CUSTARD  
or PEACH MELBA SUNDAE

**THE COACH AND HORSES**

**LOCAL'S LUNCH 27 FEBRUARY 2008**

HAM, EGG & CHIPS  
or  
SALMON & SPRING ONION FISHCAKES  
WITH MIXED VEGETABLES  
DORSET APPLE CAKE WITH CUSTARD  
or FRESH FRUIT SALAD

**THE COACH AND HORSES**

**LOCAL'S LUNCH 27 FEBRUARY 2008**

HAM, EGG & CHIPS  
or  
SALMON & SPRING ONION FISHCAKES  
WITH MIXED VEGETABLES  
DORSET APPLE CAKE WITH CUSTARD  
or FRESH FRUIT SALAD

**THE COACH AND HORSES**

**LOCAL'S LUNCH 5 MARCH 2008**

HOMEMADE LASAGNE WITH  
GARLIC BREAD & GARNISH or  
BREADED PLAICE, CHIPS & PEAS  
JAM ROLY POLY WITH CUSTARD  
or MANDARIN CHEESECAKE

**THE COACH AND HORSES**

**LOCAL'S LUNCH 5 MARCH 2008**

HOMEMADE LASAGNE WITH  
GARLIC BREAD & GARNISH or  
BREADED PLAICE, CHIPS & PEAS  
JAM ROLY POLY WITH CUSTARD  
or MANDARIN CHEESECAKE

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## CHURCH CALENDAR – FEBRUARY 2008

|                           |  |                         |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Friday 1st                | 4.00pm Holy Communion (BCP)                    | Steepleton Manor        |
| Sunday 3rd                | The Presentation of Christ in the Temple       |                         |
| 9.30am.                   | Parish Communion (CW)                          | Winterbourne Abbas      |
| 11.00am                   | Sung Eucharist & Healing (CW)                  | Martinstown             |
| Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>   | 12.30 Valley View Lunch Club                   | Farm Shop               |
| 2.00pm                    | Prayer Group                                   | Rectory                 |
| Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> | – ASH WEDNESDAY – no morning service           |                         |
| 10.00am                   | Teddy Praise                                   | Martinstown             |
| 7.30pm                    | Parish Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes      | Martinstown             |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 2.00pm Holy Communion (BCP)                    | Park House              |
| Sunday 10th               | 1st Sunday of Lent                             |                         |
| 8.00am                    | Holy Communion (BCP)                           | Martinstown             |
| 9.30am                    | Holy Communion (BCP)                           | ComptonValence          |
| 11.00am                   | Family Eucharist                               | Winterbourne Steepleton |
| Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> | 3.00pm Baptism William Harris                  | Martinstown             |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent                 |                         |
| 9.30am                    | Parish Eucharist (CW)                          | Martinstown             |
| 11.00am                   | Come & Praise                                  | Winterbourne Abbas      |
| 6.00pm                    | Taize service                                  | Steepleton              |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent                 |                         |
| 9.30am                    | Holy Communion (BCP)                           | Steepleton Manor        |
| 11.00am                   | Family Eucharist<br>& Baptism Eleanor Chambers | Martinstown             |
| Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>   | 4.00pm Holy Communion (BCP)                    | Steepleton Manor        |

### Weekday Services - February 2008

Silent prayer from 8.15am followed by

|           |                            |                    |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Tuesday   | 8.30 am. - Morning Prayer  | Martinstown        |
| Wednesday | 8.30 am. – Holy Communion  | Martinstown        |
| Thursday  | 8.30 am. - Morning Prayer  | Winterbourne Abbas |
| Friday    | 8.30 a.m. - Morning Prayer | Martinstown        |