

Martin Update & Highlights*

No. 58 January, February, March 2012



The success of this newsletter depends on the people in the village, it will bring you news and events that are happening in Martin, Tidpit and East Martin every few months – if you let us know!

Please check village notice boards for village events.

Open Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri 9.15-1pm. Come and visit us in the Blandford Hall to see what we do. For more information contact **Andrea Bourne 519259** or call into the Nursery. We have small friendly classes with individual attention in a safe rural setting. We have close links with Western Downland School where many of our children go on to school. Places available now.

We are aware that we have been missing advertising various events in the village while we have been waiting for people to send their information. We are trying to rectify this and hope that in future we will be more efficient.

Carols on the Green – Many thanks to all who supported this event and enough was raised to cover costs and give a donation of £60 to the First Responders.

Thanks to Graham Spencer for providing the musical organ. We finished singing carols just before the rain and this local event is now a good start to the Christmas festivities.

Futurefarms AGM

Wednesday 29th February at 7:30pm in the Blandford Hall, Martin.

Includes a showing of a short film: "New Forest in Transition – Connecting to Our Food".

Free refreshments. All welcome – both members and non-members.

Come and have your say in how your local food co-op is run!

Martin Community Association (MCA)

The MCA has been organising regular events over its first year aimed at a variety of different types and ages of people. Its objectives are to promote activities, clubs and events in the village to help improve community spirit and interaction and enjoyment.

The last few successful events have been:

Feb 2011- a talk by Luke Gamble about the charity that he founded – The Worldwide Veterinary Service.

March 2011– A business evening - some of the small businesses that operate in the Village to encourage us to trade locally.

April 2011– Children's Author, Angela McAllister (Farmer) enthralled local children by reading some of her stories.

May 2011– Renewable Energy Evening – 3 presentations on current available technology – on an individual and a village scale.

June 2011- Natural England gave a guided nature walk on Martin Down.

July 2011 – 'A Vintage Evening and BBQ' old items such as cars, tractors, machines, typewriters, gramophones, radios, clothes, documents etc etc.

September 2011 Village Rounders and BBQ.

October 2011- Capt John Kelly OBE (ex Royal Navy) fascinating talk with video -Falkland Islands during the war and as it is now.

October 2011- Pumpkin Decoration Competition

The minibus to Salisbury for evening outings has not had a great demand. In future these may be organised, but only to coincide with specific events (such as the switching on of Christmas lights, Salisbury Races evening meeting, Olympic Torch) etc.

Upcoming events planned are:

Weds 25th January 2012 at 7.30pm Martin Club : Village Historical Evening. There are many people in the parish who have knowledge and expertise in particular aspects of the Parish's history and also many people have old documents, maps, photographs, postcards, artefacts etc. The idea of this event is to get people together to find out what information and knowledge we have amongst us and decide on a way to create an archive of records, accessible to all within the village in all formats: verbal, pictures, newspapers and peoples recollections.

Weds 28th March 2012 at 7.30pm Martin Club - Clubs and Societies Evening. There are many different organisations and clubs and societies in the village and most of these will be present with a 'table display' of what they do and what they offer the local community. Visitors are invited to come and 'browse' the stalls. Examples include : Tea and chat, Bellringers, Art group, Yoga, Nursery, Parish Council, Belly Dancing, Church, Future Farms, Shop, Village Hall, Horticultural Society, Book Club, W I, Hants Wildlife Trust, Western Downlands Care Group, Model Aircraft Flying Club, , Whitetalk Trust, Martin Club and others. This is also a chance for anybody to start a new club, or merely try to find out levels of support for one.

To celebrate the **Queens Diamond Jubilee** in the first week of June, there will be a '**Royal Fete**' held on the Martin Playing Field with bar, stalls, teas, games, races, tombola, displays etc. Volunteers will be needed to assist with this.

The MCA has launched a website for the Village – www.martinvillage.org for news, information, photos, events, local business directory etc. To submit articles, photos etc please email editor@martinvillage.org. Please could all business owners/

Tea & Chat— come along at 2.30 to the Blandford Hall for a cup of tea, biscuits and a chat on the **last Wednesday** in the month. For more details ring Marjorie- 519329 or Kathy- 519262

Damerham and District Horticultural Society

Interested in gardens and gardening? Why not join our Society and come along to talks and events. For further details phone 01725 518802.

February 16th (Thursday) 2.30pm

Martin

Talk and slides by Diana Guy - 'Beyond the Garden Gate; Inspirational Gardens'

March 11th (Sunday) 10.30-2.30pm

Damerham Village Hall

Potato Day

March 31st (Saturday)

Damerham Village Hall

Spring Show

April

Garden visit to be arranged

Church

For times of services and other information please look in **The Courier**.

Garden Machinery Service and Repairs

Andrew Baverstock Farnham Dorset
Tel 01725 516 311 mobile 07813252078

School Dates– Burgate

Wed 8th Feb– Safer Internet Day

Fri 10th Feb Non Uniform Day

Feb 13-17th Spring half term

Fri 30th March Break for Easter

12.30pm

Mon 2nd April-Fri 13th April Easter

Holidays–

Please check all dates with schools,

Contact Numbers

Marjorie Willis– 519329

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Please contact any of the above with items to be included in the next newsletter or for any further details, or email anything for the newsletter to

crispin.de.pass@farmline.com

by 9th March please. Next Newsletter due end of March 2012.

English Nature-January 2012 update

Not entirely sure when winter will arrive – it's pretty mild out there as I write this note! I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year. Prior to Christmas we had 'phase 2' of the orchard planting event at Down's Farm with the current Year 1 class from Western Downland Primary School, Damerham planting apple trees ('Phase 1' being Dec 2009). A great morning had by all with some serious tree planting going on, Paul Toynton demonstrating apple pressing and the children bashing leaves to make prints on muslin. The holes were kindly dug the previous week by a young group from the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) who also helped us clean out the pond. More widely on the reserve the annual scrub management is in progress and will be completed by the end of March. The winter sheep grazing programme is also going well. The fence between Vernditch and the Reserve will also be replaced in the next couple of months – the escapologists within our flocks have had a field day recently! One piece of work we will be doing, indeed it may already be done when you read this, is to safeguard the three tumuli at the centre of the reserve by pinning rabbit netting onto the surface of the monuments. The rabbits have been disturbing and damaging the tumuli and the netting will help prevent this. It is envisaged the netting will be out of sight as the grass in spring begins to grow. English Heritage supports the work and it has been used successfully on Salisbury Plain. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me. Best wishes for 2012. Robert Lloyd Site Manager Natural England 07770 445770

What to look for: Early February is still wintry. It is a good time to see roe deer and hares on the down. Warm days later in February may bring the first signs of spring. Overwintering insects will begin to come out. Bloody-nosed beetles, queen bumblebees and butterflies such as brimstone and peacock are among the first to emerge. March is a good time to see adders and slow-worms basking in the early sunshine. In the scrub areas hazel catkins develop early and in the grassland the first flowers are violets and yellow sedges.

Grazing: Winter grazing continues across the down. Grasses and tall vegetation are grazed down and the impoverished conditions which result are ideal for the chalk plants, which flower through the spring and summer and cannot tolerate competition or shading from vigorous species.

Hedge cutting: The boundary hedge is a rich habitat for wildlife providing shelter, security and a range of food sources. The hedge is cut back in small sections each year to retain its thickness and variety. Fieldfares and redwings have been taking advantage of the fruits and berries in the hedge but most of these have now been stripped, so it is the best time for hedge trimming.

Thank you We are very grateful to Richard Peters for printing this newsletter for us.