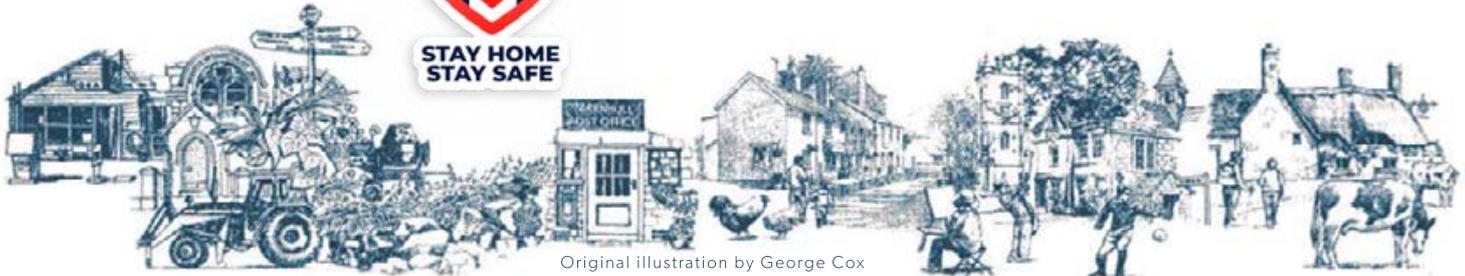




# THE MARNHULL MESSENGER



STAY HOME  
STAY SAFE



Original illustration by George Cox

PAGE 5

## MARNHULL Village Helpline

01305 490000



(local rate call to Marnhull)

OPEN 8am to 8pm everyday

Do you need some help?

Do you have a neighbour or friend who needs help?

If so get in touch as we have a team of friendly, local volunteers standing by to help you with shopping, dog walking, general support or just a friendly voice.



You are not alone - we are all in this together

Phone us or email: [marnhullcovidhelp@gmail.com](mailto:marnhullcovidhelp@gmail.com)

Supported by Marnhull Parish Council & Marnhull Village Care

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### THE SURGERIES

What's new from our local doctors surgeries

PAGE 14



### IN OUR CHURCHES

All the latest news from the churches

PAGE 20



### AT OUR SCHOOLS

The latest from our village schools

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## WELCOME TO YOUR MARNHULL MESSENGER

**CHRIS RYU**  
Messenger Editor

### WELCOME TO YOUR NEW LOOK MESSENGER

I'm guessing some of you will be surprised to still receive the Messenger this month. The committee have put extra protection in place to ensure that at least for this issue, the Messenger - the primary method of communication for many in the village can continue to be produced. A huge thank you to those making the deliveries in their "exercise hour" and taking the

Due to the amount of changes, I hope you'll understand why I've removed the diary section of the Messenger for this issue.

Head on over to the Marnhull Village Facebook page if you can for up to date news on event closures.

### NEW EDITOR REQUIRED

Just a reminder that I have decided to step down from my role as Editor of the Messenger after 5 fun years and a replacement is being looked for. I'll be staying on as webmaster to do my bit for the village.

Naturally I'll still be on hand to help village causes and help the new Editor find their feet! Thank you all for your support in the last half-decade! If you'd like to become the new editor - apply within ;-)

### NEW LOOK MESSENGER WEBSITE DELAYED

The virus has impacted my business enough that the new village website has had to be delayed slightly.

The focus of the new website will be "Real Time" allowing clubs to share news immediately and they'll feature in the printed Messenger like normal. This would be a great help right now with so much changing, but I unfortunately need a little more time to finish it off.

**New estimated completion date: early May.**

## SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS INTO A LIVE CALENDAR

On the messenger website and they'll be added to this diary in the next issue!

[www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk](http://www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk)

### DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

## MID-DAY 14th MAY

E-mail all texts, announcements and other requests to:  
[editor@marnhullmessenger.org.uk](mailto:editor@marnhullmessenger.org.uk)

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### MARNHULL MESSENGER WEBSITE

#### WHO DO I CONTACT?

Any amendments or proposals for new pages in the messenger web site should be made to:

**Chris Ryu Email: [editor@marnhullmessenger.org.uk](mailto:editor@marnhullmessenger.org.uk)**

**Rosalind Eveleigh Email: [rseveleigh@icloud.com](mailto:rseveleigh@icloud.com)**

### MARNHULL MESSENGER DELIVERIES

It takes about 40 people, all of whom are volunteers, to collate and deliver The Marnhull Messenger to every home and business in the village. We are extremely grateful to this dedicated team, without whom the magazine simply would not flourish.

Whilst we always aim to deliver the magazine by the 1st of the month, from time to time illness, family commitments and a myriad of other personal issues can sometimes get in the way, resulting in the occasional late delivery. Recently, there have been a few complaints from villagers, because they felt their copy of The Marnhull Messenger was delivered late.

It might be worth pointing out that if it is essential to you to receive the Marnhull Messenger by a particular date and it hasn't arrived, then the Church, the two pubs and all the businesses in the village have spare copies available.

Ian Gall – Chairman, The Marnhull Messenger Steering Group.

#### Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in the articles and on the pages of the Marnhull Messenger are not necessarily those of the Marnhull Messenger. All the dates and details are as supplied by the contributing organisations. The Marnhull Messenger is not responsible for errors or omissions, accuracy of the content, nor the failure of any published event to go ahead. The letters and articles published in this magazine are accepted in good faith and the views expressed therein are not necessarily the views of the Messenger Steering Committee, whose decisions on publication are delegated to the Editor and are final.

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At the time of going to press, we encourage all patients to use E-consult as routine access, for non urgent issues, through the Practice website. <https://www.blackmorevalesurgery.co.uk/> It's very easy to use and you will get a response within 24 hours – often much quicker than that. Sturminster Newton remains an admin site only, with patients being seen by appointment, if necessary at Abbey View, Shaftesbury – all patients will be pre-screened by phone or video before being invited in. All home visits will be triaged by senior clinicians before any visit.

Marnhull Surgery will continue to be the hot site where any suspected cases of COVID can be seen, if clinically necessary.

Where possible, we have moved to repeat dispensing, so patients' prescriptions are automatically sent to their normal pharmacy on a monthly basis, so patients don't need to phone to order these. The amount of medication supplied during this time will remain the same.

The Practice is calling those patients that are frail and at risk, offering advice and support. Our social prescribing colleagues are working closely with councils and the Marnhull Village Helpline to provide support, such as delivering medication.

If you have "block no ID caller" on your phone during this time, please remove it so that staff can contact you if necessary.

General information on measures we should all take is available on the <https://www.gov.uk> website. People are advised to stay at home unless they need to leave the house for food, health reasons, or essential work. Further guidance is available including information about COVID-19 <https://www.nhs.uk> and how to prevent spread, and what to do if people have symptoms.

NHS 111 has an online coronavirus service <https://111.nhs.uk>, running alongside its standard online service, which can provide advice to patients with an urgent health concern. Patients with possible COVID-19 are directed to NHS 111 online for health advice in the first instance. The NHS 111 telephone service should be used only when online access is not possible.

Take care and stay safe!

### COMBATING CRIME IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Phil Sugrue PC 2146



**There are no crimes to report for March. How ever there was one report of a suspicious vehicle.**

#### ROGUE TRADERS

Rogue traders recently attended a property of an elderly resident. These unscrupulous traders were eventually stopped by colleagues in Wiltshire, they were searched however nothing evidential was found and they were given very strong words of advice.

#### SCAMS

The scams continue via phone, text, email and mail. There are ones that are related to COVID-19 please do not reply to text messages, emails regarding these. The scammers are after your hard-earned cash. The usual scams continue please be on your guard. If you are contacted by phone do not engage and hang up. Do not give out personal or bank details - you do not know who you are talking to! **HANG UP ON FRAUDSTERS!**

#### MONTHLY SURGERY

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 NPT monthly surgeries, on the 1st Thursday of the month, are cancelled for the time being. They will resume when it is safe to do so.

See what your local NPT have been up to by following our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NorthDorsetRPT>

#### PLEASE BE VIGILANT AND REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Report suspicious activity either to 101 or via the police website <https://www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online#report>

If you need to contact your local NPT the email address is below this however is NOT for reporting crimes as it is not monitored 24/7.

If you need to report a crime the email address is above or you can phone 101. If a crime is occurring or a life is in danger phone 999.



PCSO 5352

Mandy Robinson

Sturminster Newton Town and Rural Policing Team  
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## MARNHULL VILLAGE HELPLINE

# MARNHULL VILLAGE HELPLINE

# 01305 490000

(Local Rate call to Marnhull)

Email – [MarnhullCovidHelp@gmail.com](mailto:MarnhullCovidHelp@gmail.com)

During these difficult times when you need to stay at home, do you, a neighbour or someone you know, need a bit of help? That's why we have set up a temporary helpline in the village, to offer support and help to those with needs in our community.

This is a completely free service and more than 70 villagers are standing by to help with shopping, dog walking, delivering prescriptions, support and providing a friendly voice on the end of the 'phone, should you just want to chat.

The line is open from 8am until 8pm every day and you can leave a message on an answer phone outside these times. We also have an email address, should you prefer to contact us that way. A team of coordinators answer the 'phone, or respond to emails and offer the most appropriate help and we'll do our very best to match your needs with a local volunteer.

We've heard stories of people travelling to the village with shopping for self-isolating relatives. There is no need for family to come to Marnhull to support vulnerable parents. Help your relatives and yourself by staying safe and remaining at home - let our local volunteers do your shopping. Even if it's just for a few items that you can't buy locally - please ring the Helpline.

Remember, the tighter the lockdown, the sooner it will be over and in these difficult times - you're not alone and we're here to help - thank you!



## KEEPING THE VILLAGE FED!

Our shops and pubs are doing a wonderful job in the most difficult of circumstances, making sure that all of us can still access essential supplies, as well as a few treats!

**The Spar/Marnhull Stores 01258 820116**

**Open – 08.00 – 18.00 Monday to Saturday, 08.00 – 13.00 Sunday**

You can 'phone your order and pay by credit or debit and they will arrange delivery if you're unable to collect the shopping yourself.

**Robin Hill Stores/Post Office 01258 820959**

**Open – 08.00 – 20.00 Monday – Saturday, 08.00 – 12.00 Sunday**

You can 'phone your order and pay by Credit or debit card, cheque or have an account. They will arrange delivery if you're unable to collect the shopping yourself.

**The Crown Inn 01258 820224**

Their takeaway menu is available 7-days a week. The menu is available on the website. The phone lines for your orders will be open from 4pm Monday-Saturday and from 11am on Sundays.

Collection is available between 5pm-8pm Monday-Saturday and between 12pm-8pm on Sundays. For delivery, call the Marnhull Village Helpline – 01305 490000

Takeaway orders require at least 30-minutes notice prior to collection. For Sunday Roast, pre-orders can be placed throughout the week up until 8pm on the preceding Saturday – regrettably we are unable to accept Sunday Roast orders for same day collection.

All orders from the takeaway menu will be on a pre-order and pre-pay basis only and can be collected from the Barn behind the Milk Machine.

**The Blackmore Vale Inn 01258 820701**

They provide a takeaway service Tuesday – Saturday, 17.00 – 20.00 & Sunday 12.00 – 15.00. 'Phone with your order and collect, or they can deliver.

More details are in their advertisement.

They now have a bakery in the rear car park, open every day, except Sunday from 8.00 – 10.00 providing freshly baked bread and they hope to progress to freshly baked baguettes and croissants, if they get enough support.

## IMAGE FROM THE VILLAGE





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## THE BLACKMORE VALE INN

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*Chicken Tikka Pastry with Rice and peas*

*Friday's Fish and Chips*

*Sunday Roast with all the Trimmings*

---



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## REMEMBER WHAT GRANMA TOLD YOU?



**Curiosity Killed The Cat, There's no such thing as a free lunch, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is ...**

All of these sayings are as relevant to on-line life today as they were when your Grandma said them to you for the first time. The situation we are in at the moment - the frustrations of being home all the time and our worries about friends and family make us all much more vulnerable to scammers. And it is reported that scammers have stepped up their activities to take our money or cause malicious damage to our computers. Here is a quick reminder of the things to look out for.

Curiosity killed the cat

If a surprise email arrives saying that you are owed money or have won a prize.

### **DON'T CLICK ON THE LINK!**

Maybe you are bored, maybe hopeful, but this email has been sent to you for malicious purposes. Even if you recognise the name, email addresses can be hijacked by a hacker to camouflage their identity. Sometimes it is plain curiosity that makes you want to click, sometimes it is worry. If you think it might be important, call your friend, the bank etc to find out if they have been trying to contact you.

There's no such thing as a free lunch

This is a worrying time at the moment and you may be concerned that your investments are working hard enough for you. There are people out there who are exploiting these concerns by offering investments with high returns, but only if you agree the deal there and then.

### **DON'T AGREE TO ANYTHING IN A HURRY!**

An honest financial adviser will allow you time to consider the offer and discuss it with your friends and family.

If it's too good to be true, it probably is

Just a few days ago I received an email offering me the opportunity to sell face masks. I was puzzled about how I would get face masks with higher priority than the NHS, as I was busy, I didn't think any more. The number of scams where you pay for goods that you never receive are on the rise.

### **DON'T BUY FROM UNSOLICITED EMAILS!**

You might not buy from a door to door salesman who knocks on your door, why take the risk with an email that whooshes into your Inbox?

For up to date information on current scams, take a look at [www.dorset.police.uk/help-advice-crime-prevention/scams-fraud-cyber/cyber-crime/](http://www.dorset.police.uk/help-advice-crime-prevention/scams-fraud-cyber/cyber-crime/)



## VILLAGE HALL FUNDRAISING GROUP

Sadly, the planned Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Breakfast got caught in the coronavirus lockdown and we have been sitting on 50 eggs, hatching a plan on what to do with them! Rather than leave them to their own devices, we decided to distribute them to various local groups or individuals, including the residents and staff at Ivor's and the children of key workers attending St Greg's.

Undaunted, the Fundraising Group is continuing to plan events for when we finally are allowed to get out and socialise again!

### **The Summer of No Sport**

As if this year wasn't already one of the weirdest on record, we also have to cope with no sport. No football. No cricket. No horse racing. No athletics. No Wimbledon. No Olympics.

But wait...never let it be said that Marnhull wouldn't rise to the occasion!

Plans are already afoot for a splendid event to be held in the late summer when, fingers crossed, we will all be free to meet, mingle and make merry. Start your training now for ...

## The Marnhull Olympics



And

## Mad Hatters Tea Party



Saturday in September (TBC)

Marnhull Recreation Ground & Village Hall

A Saturday in September is the day to work towards. There will be different, unique races for both adults and children with entry on the day. All sorts of competitions - and a delicious, slightly bonkers tea party available to refresh the competitors and spectators alike.

All in aid of the Marnhull Village Hall - but also an occasion when we can celebrate being together again.

Keep an eye on future Marnhull Messengers for more details - you won't want to miss out!



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**MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL**



We extend our thoughts to all while the Hall is closed and life in Marnhull, the country and throughout the world is severely affected.

We are particularly aware of those whose lives revolved around the village organisations which have had to curtail their social programmes and activities. The mutual support and comfort of people meeting together face-to-face has been drastically curbed. While many have learned to become more adept online it's not the same, but it's better than nothing and in some cases a lifeline.

We are all very fortunate to live in such a supportive community where people are finding many ways to keep in touch and help one another during such extraordinary times.

We look forward very much to the time when all our village organisations can resume their activities and the Village Hall can once again offer its normal, and ultimately extended and improved, facilities. There will be updates as soon as circumstances change.

With our very best wishes to all throughout this 'difficult' time

Village Hall Management Committee April 2020

<http://marnhullvillagehall.org.uk/>

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**



As we are all only too well aware now most of last month's report turned out to be null and void. With no end in sight the Club is standing cold and empty, we are keeping an occasional eye on it but if on your exercise walks you do notice anything amiss please let me know.

Can't see that any 75th anniversary celebrations for VE on May 8th will go ahead but it wouldn't hurt if we could put some Union flags out just so the day doesn't go unmarked. Personally I missed it by three months but I'm sure to those that were there in 1945 it must have been a momentous event.

Lyn's bingo has gone the way of all other entertainments but it will be back sometime so keep you bingo pens at the ready. The same with the jumble sales sadly but they also will be back. Fingers crossed for the September one.

Head Office has issued an edict that no home visits are permitted during the clampdown. If you know of an ex-service person who requires assistance let me know and I will direct them to the right person who hopefully will be able to help.

That's all for now, stay safe obey the instructions and hopefully we'll all come out of this in one piece.

\*\*\*\*\*

For Branch business contact Jack Whitehead on 01258 820800 or [whiteheadjack51@gmail.com](mailto:whiteheadjack51@gmail.com)

For Hall business contact Tony Junge on 01258 820397

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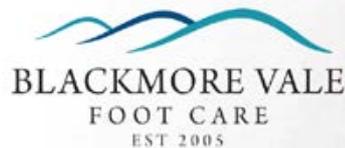


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**POPPIN CAFÉ****A NEW APPROACH TO THE POPPIN ?**

By the time you read this article The POPPIN will have been closed for three months. Like all of you, we are still finding it very hard to believe how much life has changed since the Coronavirus outbreak.

**One of the many positives** has been to force us into tackling a fear of anything remotely to do with computers and mobile phones! We now recognise that the fun way of keeping in touch with family and friends is to just get to grips with technology such as Zoom and Facetime!

Indeed there was a crazy point when we were seriously considering recreating POPPIN as a Virtual Coffee morning! This mad moment did not last for long as we realised that if we had any chance of controlling between 100 and 120 people trying to talk at once we would just have to mute you all as quickly as possible – and that would have been so RUDE!

**Another positive - this extra time has helped us think up some creative** new ideas for theming the POPPIN ready for when we reopen again, as well as trying out lots more new cake recipes – not so good for our waist lines though!

**Exploring other ways to Keep in Touch – for those of you that are members of the Marnhull Village Facebook page, you might like to check in on FRIDAY MAY 15th at around 10am when we will be posting this month's table decorations and flowers (with a virtual mug of coffee and cake of course) we may even share the recipe with you all! If you are a Zoom or Facetime pro then why not set up a virtual coffee morning with some friends, it really does work a treat with smaller groups.**

**For non- Facebook users then maybe phone a friend – someone you who you would normally chat to or go with to the POPPIN and have a catch up over a mug of coffee from the comfort of your own home!**

**Either way NB. Please do not invite friends or family from outside your household to come in and watch with you though!!!**

At this time we have no idea how long we are all going to be required to stay at home and we know it is so hard for everyone, especially if you live alone. I was given a wonderful book "The Boy, the mole, the fox and the Horse for Xmas and over the past weeks have enjoyed many of Charlie Mackesy's poignant quotes. This is one of my favourites!

**"I've learned how to be in the present"**

**"How?" asked the boy**

**"I find a quiet spot and shut my eyes and breathe"**

**"That's good, and then?"**

**"Then I focus"**

**"What do you focus on?"**

**"CAKE", said the mole!**

On that lovely note - stay strong and please be sure to follow Government Advice regarding Coronavirus to keep us all and the NHS safe.

Talk to you again next month, virtually or otherwise.

**Love: Linda, Sue, Jill, Rosie, Lynda, Audrey and Anne.**

**MARNHULL MUSIC SOCIETY**

Thanks to the coronavirus it was a small and determined group who met for Mike Wilkins' presentation in March. The audience of nine were treated to an exceptionally melodic and varied programme which began with a song from Les Miserables sung in French. The idea of the familiar in an unfamiliar setting continued with the next choice which was a modern and vocal rendition of Pachelbel's canon – a hint of techno-music which Mike dedicated to his great friend, and ours, Jeanne Baker who died earlier this year.

Barry's John Dunbar theme was played, on this occasion, by the band of the Royal Scots Guards. It began with a long solo cornet overture and ended with the skirl of bagpipes which gave a new gloss to the well-known work.

Mike included 21 recordings in his programme making it difficult to comment on more than a few but there were some unusual inclusions such as a piece by Nigel Hess called "Chimera" which had a drifting, ethereal quality, and the rich, rounded tones of Bryn Terfel singing the delightful Eli Jenkins prayer from Under Milk Wood. In the current circumstances it did hit a minatory note. The second movement of Mozart's piano concerto no. 23 was yearning and introspective, and given its charm, was odd that it was not well known to most of us.

Equally unfamiliar was a recording of the Red Army choir in a traditional piece called "Meadowlands". The massed balalaikas suggested muffled hoofbeats and the choir made a murmurous humming which sounded distant and mysterious.

There were some very familiar and welcome items: Mike's second half opened with the broad, confident strains of Sibelius' Karelia Suite followed by a heavy-footed version of Rameau's Danse de Sauvages and then a dramatic performance by Itzhak Perlman of Beethoven's Violin Concerto.

After a moment of hilarity with Rowan Atkinson's skit called "Constable Savage", the evening ended with another of Mike's unusual items: he gave us the well-known aria from Turandot, "Nessum Dorma" sung, in this recording by .....

Sarah Brightman.

**MARNHULL BABY & TODDLERS**

Hi Everyone hope your all keeping safe and keeping your little ones entertained. I miss seeing you all and look forward to being able to back to toddler group and seeing you all. There are some great activities on line to help keep you little ones occupied. Stay Safe and hope to see you all soon.

Your local toddler group needs your help.

Michelle will not be returning to help me run the group now as she is starting a new job when we can all go back and we I wish her all the best and know she will do fantastic but will be missed, I would like to thank her for all her hard work she has been amazing. I am going to have to hand over the group to 2 new people. I will run it till July. So if any of you would like more information about what you would need to do please email me at wifeyryu@googlemail.com or call on 07540 580372. If no one comes forward then sadly the group will be closing.

Thanks for your continued support and hope to see you soon, stay safe.

Emma

### Lent Reflections and Lunches

During Lent, the six week period leading up to Easter (this year 28th February – 3rd April), Christians traditionally study and meditate on Christian faith, teaching and traditions and their relevance and application in our world today. Sadly, our planned series of Lent Reflections were limited to the first three although we were able to share reflections led by leaders of each of the three Marnhull Churches. World events during this period, especially the spread of the corona virus through the world, have dramatically brought home the truth summarised in the overall theme this year - 'Fragile Lives, Fragile World'. Reflecting on the message from the events of Holy Week (the week leading to Good Friday as reported in the bible) and considering its relevance to people today and to our responsibility for our world has rarely been more significant. We hope to be able to arrange another series on the theme at a later date.

### World Peace Prayers

Churches Together in Marnhull gather regularly to pray for world peace. Everyone is welcome to join us for thirty minutes of quiet contemplation focussed on world events. The gatherings usually take place at midday on the second Friday of each month in the three Marnhull Churches in turn. They will begin again when the present restrictions are lifted.

### COMMUNITY CHOIR

Undaunted by the government restrictions imposed for staying at home, the Community Choir is continuing to meet twice a week and rehearse virtually. After a few tentative steps to overcome the technology issues surrounding the use of Zoom, the video conferencing app, we have a regular session lasting 45 minutes of around 25 members, all eager to sing. So long as the restrictions are in place, we will continue to learn new material, improve the technical delivery of familiar songs and enjoy raising a glass at the end of each rehearsal.



Caption: Choir Leaders Katie & James Smith ready to start a virtual rehearsal

There are so many people offering virtual choirs now that anyone can find a group of between 100 to several thousand people to join. Gareth Malone is aiming to give everyone the

chance to "contribute their voice or their instruments to an ambitious digital music project," more than 15,000 have already signed up and will soon be sent music to learn.

The Community Choir has also launched a new website, which can be found at

<https://www.marnhullcommunitychoir.com/>

Please go online and take a look. Hopefully when life returns to normal, new and old members will be able to keep up-to-date through the website pages with choir activities and planned performances.

Katie and James Smith, who run the choir, have embraced the challenge to entertain us each morning by putting up on the BLOG, their chosen 'Song of the Day' – their selection has been wide and varied, entertaining, as well as informative!

## ST. GREGORY'S CHURCH

### News from St Gregory's Church

As no formal services or public acts of worship can take place in St Gregory's Church for the time being, you can access resources for Worship on the Church website, including readings, prayers and Rev Gaenor's 'Easter Reflections.'

If you are walking past the Church please pause and look in the porch at the Easter Garden – a reminder of life and hope and of God's love.

We look forward to the relaxation of the current restrictions when we can welcome you again into our beautiful and ancient Church.

Any pastoral concerns or enquiries can still be directed to Revd Gaenor via phone, email or message the church's Facebook page and also any request for prayer for a loved one at this difficult time.

We are maintaining our prayer for the whole village, especially those who are living with uncertainty and feeling the isolation.

Revd Gaenor 01258 821605 [gaenor@protonmail.com](mailto:gaenor@protonmail.com)

### THE METHODIST CHURCH

**Sunday Service.** Everyone is welcome to join our service at 10:00am every Sunday and for tea or coffee in the hall afterwards.

To our great sorrow, for the first time since the present Church building was opened 120 years ago, the Methodist Church and Hall are closed, even on Sundays. The whole congregation would like to thank our superintendent minister, Rev. Paul Arnold, for sending us each week the plan of a service with readings, hymns, reflections and prayers to follow in our own homes at the time we would have been together in church. It has been a great comfort to know that our friends are sharing this time with us and, sometimes, to compare the experience on the telephone later. Rev. Paul's opening prayer for Palm Sunday (April 12th) is one we would like to share with everyone; Lord, the church is locked, but my heart will be open to your presence;

The streets are empty, but I will fill my mind with multitudes of good memories;

The news is full of sadness, but my prayers are offered in compassion for the needs of others so that the heavy stone of despair may be rolled away.

### Lent Reflections

The theme of the three Lent Reflections which we were able to hold this year, thankfully one led by each of the three Marnhull Churches, was 'Fragile Lives, Fragile World. We never guessed just how dramatically that fragility would be brought home to us and how much we need to seek God's guidance for the future.

### Easter

Easter is, of course, the most significant day in the Christian Year and is always a day of joy and celebration whatever else is happening in the world. Our earthly celebrations this year were sadly limited but we share Rev. Paul's opening prayer for Easter Sunday;

Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope....

Christ is risen!

**He is Risen indeed. Hallelujah**

### Pentecost

Pentecost (Whitsun) when the Church remembers the gift of The Holy Spirit this year falls on Sunday May 31st. Let us pray that we will be able to welcome you all into our church again by then.

## THE GOLDEN TRAP

A short story for children of all ages by Selina Hepworth  
with illustrations by Deb Chisman

Aarushi sat alone in her golden room swinging her tiny jewelled feet from the silk throne. The only sound, the rustle of the rich fabric of her clothes. Deepest green emeralds glowed on her fingers; diamonds sparkled at her wrists.

Aarushi, the daughter of Aadhishanker, who had ridden off, tall in the saddle, his grey stallion rearing in a cloud of dust, his sword on his belt, his red turban unravelling in the mountain wind.

"I entrust the riches to your care, oh daughter of mine." His voice had rumbled across the wind, eyes flashing in the sunlight. Aarushi closed the golden door on the world and settled on her throne to watch

over all their wealth. The Keeper of the Thousand Years of Riches.

Night and day rolled on, two hundred and twenty-seven times. Aarushi was diligent. And on the two hundred and twenty-eighth day there was a rap at the golden gate. She sprang from her silk throne and peered through a slit in the cold, gold wall.

Hunched on the highest step, a brown cloak round his shoulders and a staff in his hand, stood the oldest of men. He lifted his staff and knocked once more and Aarushi reached up to the seven golden bolts on the door and drew each of them back, one by one.

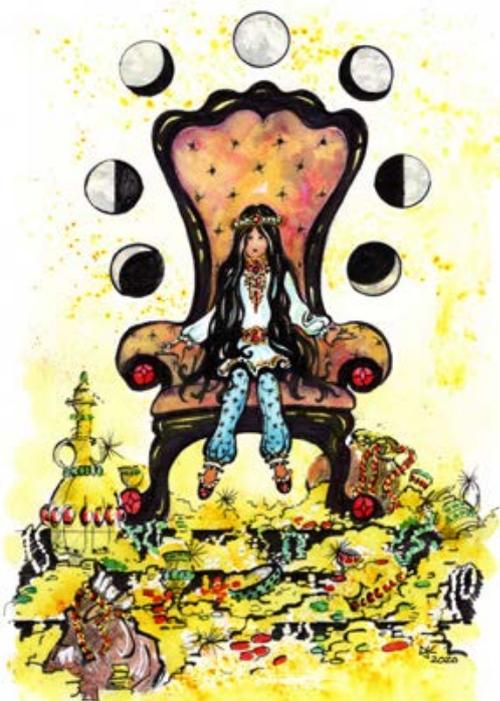
"Good afternoon, Aarushi." The One-Hundred-Year-Old-Man smiled and bowed low, white teeth and blue eyes in a walnut face. "It is time for you to come."

"But I must stay in the Golden House and tend to my father's wealth."

"My child. It is time for you to see the other riches of this world."

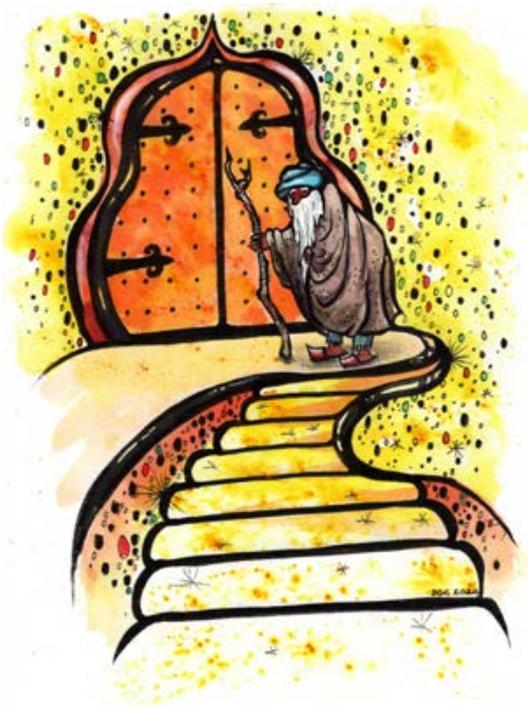
Aarushi stared at the One-Hundred-Year-Old-Man.

"I promise to take great care of you," he said.



And Aarushi found his one-hundred-year-old blue eyes so beautiful and kind and honest that she closed the golden door behind her and put her little hand in his.

Sun shone from a brilliant blue sky, the pathway smooth beneath their feet. In the foothills of the mountains, the Old Man pointed to the emerald green grass below. Goats and sheep frolicked and ate from the rich greenness.



Aarushi smiled. "But the fields are the colour of my emerald ring."

"They are," said the Old Man. "In the spring when the sun warms the soil, the new grass feeds the animals. The goats give us milk and in summer, when the sun is hot in the sky, the sheep don't need their overcoats and we take their wool to make clothes for our winter."

"But don't the sheep get cold?"

"It is all taken care of, Aarushi. Another coat grows on their backs." The Old Man beckoned, "Come child, I have much more to show you."

Aarushi heard the thundering of the water-fall before they rounded the rocky corner. The spray cooled her face, water tossing in the sunlight.

"But the water sparkles like the diamonds in my bracelet."

"It does," said the Old Man.

"Every spring when the sun warms the snowy mountain caps, water cascades down to the river so we can drink and the crops can be watered. In the cold winter the white snow covers the mountain tops once more."

"So we never have to go thirsty?"

"We are always provided for in this world, Aarushi."

They walked, side by side, towards the plains. Fields of golden wheat rustled in the warm breeze. The Old Man halted and held his ancient finger to his lips.

"Be still a moment, Aarushi."

He sat on a smooth rock, his staff in one hand. "Can you hear the husks of the golden wheat popping open?"

Aarushi shut her eyes tight, to hear all the better. "Yes, yes," she cried. "I can hear."

"Every year the sun and the water from the river help the wheat to grow so that we can make bread together and eat."

"So we never have to go hungry?" And Aarushi thought how

the beautiful, rustling wheat was the colour of her golden house. Only, the golden house was as still and cold as the rocks.

"I have something else to show you, Aarushi; perhaps the most important thing of all."

And, as the sun glowed large and low in the sky, the Old Man led Aarushi on the path, beside the rush and flow of the river, to a circle of clay houses amongst the weeping willows. In the centre stood a table as ancient as the trees, laden with freshly cooked food. As the Old Man and Aarushi approached, women and children and men poured from the houses to greet them. Every one of them smiled and kissed and hugged and welcomed the Old Man and Aarushi to the feast. Babies slept in papooses on the women's backs. Children played in the grass and the dusty soil. Aarushi had never heard such joy or smelled such succulent food.

By the glow of the fire, the feast was served to every person, according to need. And the Old Man led a song of thanks in a high, reedy voice, as they all ate together in the evening light, with the river flowing by.

Aarushi lay on the soft grass and watched as the clusters of diamonds appeared in the night sky, the air all around warm with the glow of companionship and care.



"Why did you say this is the most important thing of all?" she asked.

The One-Hundred-Year-Old-Man sat beside her, his face in the light of the fire. "Because, my dear Aarushi, this is Love."

A tear glistened on the Old Man's cheek. "The Thousand Years of Riches is a golden trap, my child." He turned his one-hundred-year old blue eyes to her. "But today, Aarushi, you have glimpsed Freedom."

And Aarushi gazed at the stars, long into the night, her heart a soft blanket wrapped loose.

© Selina Hepworth, 2020



## OUR LADY'S CHURCH

**Catholic Church of Our Lady, Marnhull & St. Benedict,  
Gillingham**

**Sunday Masses** - 9.30am & 6pm (Marnhull) / 11am (Gillingham)

**However, there are NO PUBLIC MASSES during the coronavirus lockdown**

### Significant dates in May

#### 3 – World Day of Prayer for Vocations

For vocations to the priesthood and the religious life; that we may be open to God's call.

#### 4 – The English Martyrs (Feast)

Celebrates the many men and women who suffered for the Faith in England between 1535 and 1680 and are recognised by the Church.

#### 14 - Saint Matthias – Apostle (Feast)

St Matthias (1st century) was chosen by lot to take the place of Judas among the Twelve (Acts 1:15-26). He was present at the first Pentecost and, according to various traditions, went on to preach in Judaea, Cappadocia and Ethiopia. He was martyred by means of an axe, with which he is often depicted in art.

#### 20 – Vigil of the Ascension of The Lord (Solemnity)

#### 21 – Ascension of The Lord (Solemnity)

Christ's Ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' humanity into God's heavenly domain (Acts 1:11)

#### 24 – World Communications Day

For all who work in the media: that they may broadcast with truth and integrity.

#### 27 - Saint Augustine of Canterbury (Feast)

St Augustine of Canterbury (+c.604) was a monk at St Andrew's in Rome. He was sent by Pope St Gregory the Great to convert the English. Landing in Thanet, Kent in 597, he baptised King Ethelbert and many of his subjects. He founded a monastery and a cathedral at Canterbury and established sees at Rochester and London.

#### 31 – Pentecost Sunday

The Greek word Pentecost means '50th day.' Fifty days after Easter Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and their followers and the beginning of their earthly ministry to make disciples of all nations. It is the Birthday of the Church.

#### Parish People

Hugo Wawruch was baptised at St Benedict's on 21st of March.

[www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk](http://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk)

## MARNHULL CHURCHES SUNDAY SERVICES

**Anglican Church of St. Gregory the Great, New Street**

8.00 – Holy Communion

10.00 – Parish Eucharist

Weekday services as advertised

[www.StGregorysMarnhull.org.uk](http://www.StGregorysMarnhull.org.uk)

**Catholic Church of Our Lady, Old Mill Lane**

9.30 - Mass

6.00 - Mass

[www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk](http://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk)

**Marnhull Methodist Church, Burton Street**

10.00 - Morning Service

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE EMAIL

Buckshaw WI have issued the following guidance for isolation:

"Right, ladies, Judith Bickerstaffe has kindly emailed the crochet patterns for the face masks and matching underwear sets. Anyone who runs out of wool should message Delia who will leave fresh supplies in a vacuum-sealed sandwich bag on your doorstep. She will knock the theme tune of Miami Vice on your door so you know it's her, and you'll have to take pot luck on colours, but I do know there's a particularly lovely shade of burnt copper.

Mavis has drawn up a rota for the HazMat suit and WW2 gas mask which is one-size-fits-all so please don't specify size requirements.

If any of our less-able members need provisions such as bread, milk, wine, gin or pickled walnuts please contact Cynthia, who will pop to the shops for you providing her moped isn't being used by her grandson for pizza deliveries.

Laura will go ahead with her useful and inspirational talk on Christmas and birthday gifts made from J-cloths via Skype.

Currently we will have to abandon our collection of soft toys made from used hosiery, particularly after that unfortunate incident when Derek Malmsbury was found doing unspeakable things to the elephant made by his wife, Nora. I'm sure we all support Nora at this upsetting time. Apparently they WERE Derek's fishnets, which is why he was confused and wanted them back. Still, that should never be done to a child's soft toy.

Connie is finishing off the template for making an emergency face mask and draft excluder from a spare bra. I know some members have raised concern that as Connie is a 46GG she has more material to work with than most, but she assures me her template will be scalable from 32A upwards.

Audrey wants to apologize for the mix-up with the medication run, but please rest assured that Joan suffered no side effects from taking Marjorie Butterworth's husband's Viagra and Haliborange. Likewise Marjorie's husband seems to have responded really well to the HRT and Marjorie says they even agreed on the pattern for their new curtains.

Sad news that, because of the Government's announcement, the trip to Leeds and 'Miss Fifi's Private Dungeon and Macrame club' has been postponed. Of course at this moment we don't have a rescheduled date.

Great news: we have already started collecting prizes for the Summer Fayre raffle. It looks like the star prize this year may well be a pack of nine Andrex Quilted Aloe Vera toilet rolls, closely followed by a complete set of knitted

Nolan Sisters toilet roll covers. Mavis says any resemblance between Colleen and Anne Widdecombe is purely coincidental.

Right, ladies, I must dash. I hear Booths has just had a fresh delivery of tinned prunes.





### JOKE OF THE MONTH selected by Imogen Mogridge of Foxes class.

My new hobby is eating clocks, it's very time consuming.

**"IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES"** It has surely been the worst of times, a time of chaos, despair and upheaval. It has also in some ways been quite the opposite, a time of community, love, and compassion. Some of our children have been exhibiting why it can be the best of times; despite lockdown they are finding ways to socialise, children are playing games across the road from one another, even hide and seek, hop scotch has made a magnificent come back! Families now have time to walk together, albeit only once a day, previously elusive time is now available to spend with the children, P.E is now a regular part of many daily lives, it is hard to argue that any of these are the worst of times.

**THOUGHTS FROM MRS FIELD** It is very unique times, here am I sitting in my office writing this piece for the Messenger. No sound of laughter coming from the corridors, no chatting of staff or knocking on my office door – to ask me to come and see children's learning.

I am sure we are all feeling the sadness of the situation and are missing family, friends and certainly without a doubt I am missing the amazing children of St Gregory's, their parents, colleagues and all that they bring to the school.

The past couple of weeks have been unprecedented times in our school life, very quickly I found myself in the situation of organising rotas for staff, carrying out deliveries to children, online learning... the list goes on.....

As a school we remain open to children of our Critical workers and this has continued during the holidays. When the children are in school they have been busy gardening, planting vegetables, doing daily PE workouts, art & craft..... and many more activities.

Staff have been incredible at St Gregory's, contacting families, setting work and volunteering to take their turns on ensuring our critical worker families can do their jobs.



This Holy Week I've been out and about delivering Easter eggs to some of our vulnerable families – these were kindly donated by Marnhull Village Hall Fundraising committee. Thank you so much – I am sure the children will enjoy devouring them!!

Prior to 'Lockdown' our children all made cards for the Community and further afield. These have been distributed and have created many 'smiles' at what is a very lonely time. I am proud to say these cards are lighting up lives in:

The Hayes, Sherborne, Newstone House Sturminster, Nazareth Lodge Sturminster, Blandford Hospital, Individual homes in Marnhull, Hinton St Mary and Sturminster. About 240 of our cards were sent out and I know that Dorset CC are extremely grateful.



St Gregory's does have a Google Classroom page, where we have been keeping in touch – posting photos / writing messages – this has been, and continues to be a lovely way of hearing from each other and finding out what we have been getting up to in our time away from school. My office at home now completely reflects my school office and there are folders everywhere!!! In addition to my Head's work, I don't think I have ever done as much baking & gardening as I have in the past few weeks.

I would like to say to the whole of our Marnhull community and surrounding areas, my thoughts are with you and your families – STAY SAFE & WELL. Hopefully we will be back together again soon.

Debbie Field, Headteacher – St Gregory's

### SEWING MACHINES FOR GUYS MARSH

Are you keeping busy during lockdown?

We are certainly living through different times at the moment and all having to adjust our normal patterns of behaviour to abide by the safety rules issued by the government. The lucky ones amongst us have their homes and gardens to keep them busy and, for once, the time to get to the end of that "to do" list!

The men in Guys Marsh are also experiencing tighter restrictions on their movements and activities, with visits suspended, many of the workshops shut and longer hours spent in their cells. They are, however, very aware of the effect Covid-19 is having on the wider community and have been thinking of ways in which they can help.

They've come up with the idea of sewing nurses scrubs and the laundry bags they go in. What a great idea and one which will help so many people – the men themselves, in giving them a worthwhile occupation; the staff, who are constantly trying to think up ways to engage the men in work that feeds their self-respect; and finally, our wonderful NHS staff who are responding to the call to arms with dedication, selflessness and courage.

The only snag is a shortage of sewing machines! So, if you have a machine taking up space in a cupboard or loft, a machine that you no longer use or want then please consider donating it to the prison. You will be helping to make such a difference.

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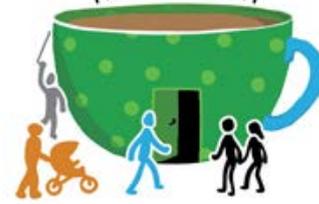
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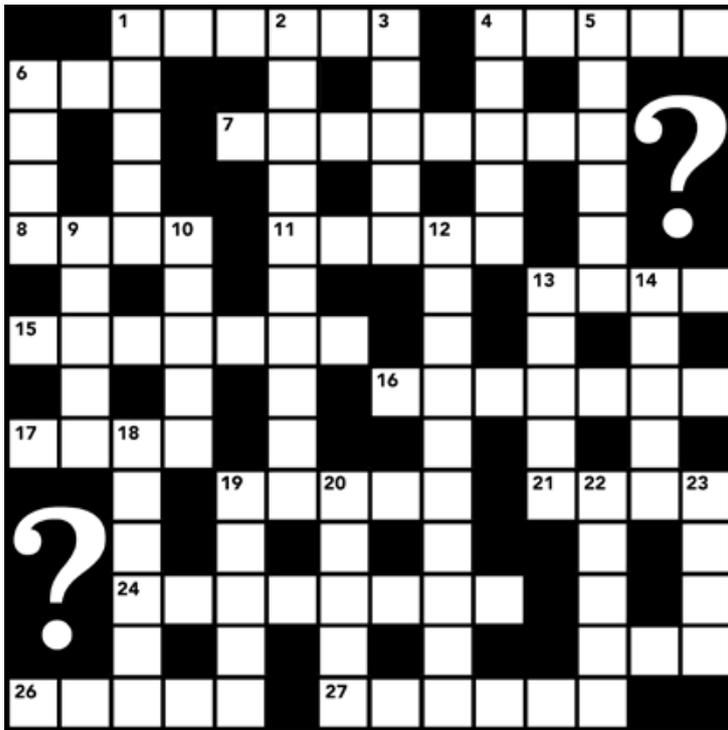
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## ACROSS

- 1) Small South African antelope. (6)
- 4) Island country whose capital is Valletta. (5)
- 6) Former French coin. (3)
- 7) Capital of the Canadian province of Alberta. (8)
- 8) Highest hereditary title in Britain. (4)
- 11) Final and fully developed stage of an insect. (5)
- 13) In Greek mythology a river between earth and the underworld. (4)
- 15) Damaging immune response by the body to substance. (7) 16) Most senior commander of a fleet. (7)
- 17) Short billed northern sandpiper. (4)
- 19) Edible bulb used as a vegetable. (5)
- 21) Stake put up by a player in poker. (4)
- 24) Ornamental climbing plant of the buttercup family. (8)
- 25) Electrically charged atom or molecule. (3)
- 26) First name of Miss Thunberg the Icelandic climate change activist. (5)
- 27) The dark blue dye obtained from a plant of this name. (6)

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		4			1	
				3		9
	5			9	6	
		1				8

## DOWN

- 1) Hungarian inventor of a famous puzzle . (5)
- 2) Terrier that is named after a town in Northumberland. (10)
- 3) Basic monetary unit of Sweden. (5)
- 4) Underground railway system of Paris. (5)
- 5) Mainly brown and grey finch. (6)
- 6) Establishment where animals are kept for breeding. (4)
- 9) Cavalryman armed with a lance. (5)
- 10) Winner of 18 Ladies Grand Slam titles in the 1970''s . (5)
- 12) Ship in which Francis Drake circumnavigated the world between 1577 and 1580. (6-4)
- 13) One of the three main gods in Hinduism. (5)
- 14) Single celled fungus that converts sugar into alcohol. (5)
- 18) Person given the gift of prophesy by the gods. (6)
- 19) Last letter of the Greek alphabet. (5)
- 20) Citizen of Baghdad. (5)
- 22) New Zealand crime writer whose first name is also the name of a New Zealand bush. (5)
- 23) Poetic name for Ireland. (4)

## TRADING STANDARDS: WARNING ABOUT SCAMS

Fraudsters are increasingly targeting the public and organisations with emails, texts, phone calls and WhatsApp messages offering advice and treatment for the coronavirus, as well as setting up fake websites selling products and offering 'cures'.

Scammers have also been setting up bogus websites asking for donations for victims or promoting awareness and prevention tips.

Cold callers have been contacting organisations suggesting they must have certain measures in place by a certain deadline.

To help members of the public protect themselves from becoming a victim of fraud, the advice from Dorset Council Trading Standard is:

Be sceptical if you receive an email, text or WhatsApp message about the coronavirus, and never click on any attachments or links

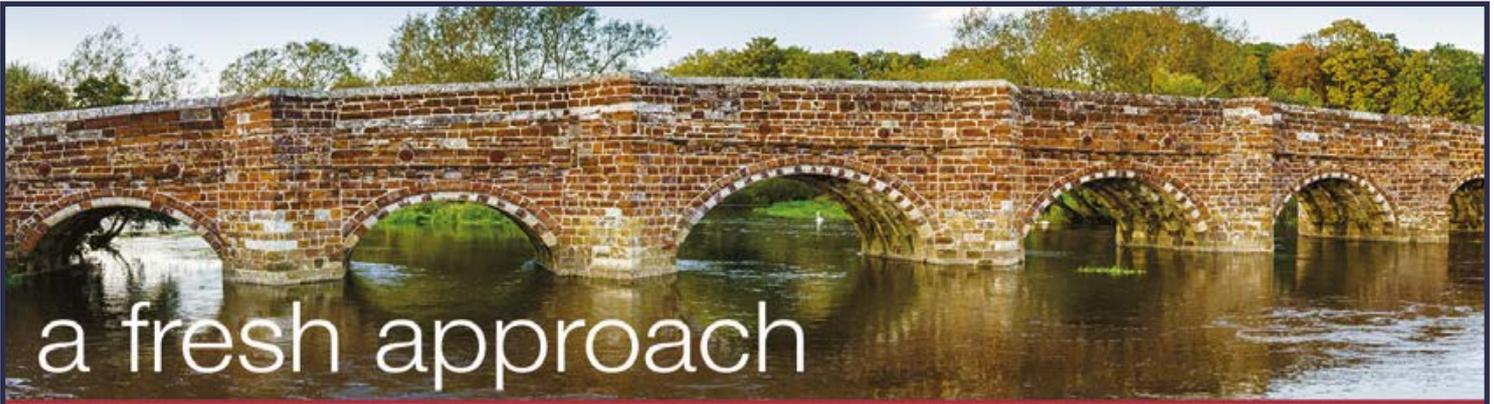
Never provide personal data such as your full name, address and date of birth – scammers can use this information to steal your identity

Don't allow yourself to be pressured into donating money, and never make donations by cash or gift card, or send money through transfer agents such as Western Union or Moneygram

If you think you've been the victim of a scam, then speak to your bank immediately and report any fraud to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040

Further information on dealing with scams and fraud is available from the Citizens Advice Consumer Service at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer> or by calling their new freephone number 0808 223 1133.

**All PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 28**



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