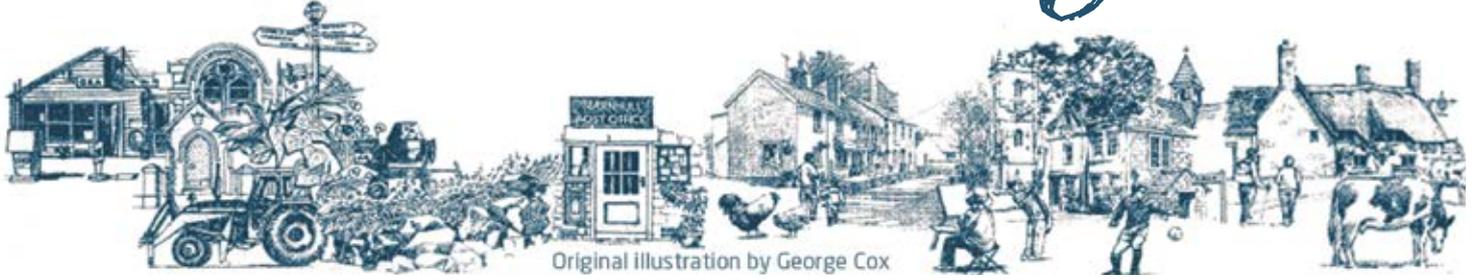


Marnhull Messenger



www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk

April 2016 - Issue 63

From the Surgeries



What's new from our local doctors surgeries

page 7

Gardening Tips



Monthly tips from our village experts

page 26

From The Churches



All the latest news from the churches

page 12

From The Schools



The latest from our village schools

page 14

The Marnhull 12K Run - Entry Form

Last chance to book your place in Marnhull's 12k race

page 25



Marnhull Messenger Advertising Manager Needed

"The Advertising Manager shall be responsible for the sale of space in the Messenger, advising the Committee on rates and liaising with the Treasurer over matters of billing, payments and receipts."

That's what the constitution says, but basically, for approximately 7 days of your time between the end of October and the beginning of January each year, the Committee would like you to resell the advertising space in the Messenger to existing advertisers and sell the remaining space to prospective advertisers. To carry out the role, you need to be computer and internet savvy,

Although it doesn't take much time, filling the advertising space will ensure the viability of the Marnhull Messenger for the next twelve months.

If you would like to be part of a very important contribution to village life and communication then contact the Chairman of the Marnhull Messenger Steering Committee, Ian Gall by phoning 01258 820484 or email - chairman@marnhullmessenger.org.uk

Marnhull Fest 2016 Update



A sample of what's in store:

Krazy Kev - your own magician wandering the field, delighting children, and staging his full show. Beware!

Morris Men, also wandering the field and entertaining with two performances. Watch out or the bagman will grab you.

Birds of prey - come and talk to them, learn about them, and hold on to your hats during their fly pasts.

Donkey rides - they have been waiting patiently for two years to return to their favourite children.

Your own **Tiger Moth flight** from Compton Abbas and a day at Longleat - a couple of items in the 'silent auction'

Firework grants to be made to our two primary schools for 5th November.

Support for the hire of the Flower Show marquees

Free pitches for all non-commercial village clubs and organisations. Come and publicise yourselves, provide some fun and reap the proceeds.

More than 20 craft and other enticing **trade stalls** already signed up.

Watch this space for latest news in each Messenger. Enquiries to Lisa 01258 820158, Emma 01258 821068, or Karen 01258 820364

For more information please visit:
www.marnhullstone.co.uk



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Welcome to your Marnhull Messenger

Chris Ryu - Messenger Editor

We have another cram-packed issue for you. The number of contributions from the village each month is really impressive!

It was so great seeing so many of you at the recent 'Clubs' evening held at the Village Hall. A big well done to all involved, in particular John Dowsett who put so much effort in to the event.

You'll notice the Advertising Manager advert on the front-cover of this issue, as we've not yet found a replacement for Vaughan Ham. A big thank you to Vaughan for giving up so much of his time over the years and really getting the Messenger to where it is today.

If you feel like you have the time to spare and want to play a big part in the future of the Messenger, please get in touch with Ian.

Volunteers Wanted and Offered

I'll be adding a new regular column next issue when we can list Volunteering opportunities, or locals looking for ways to help out. I'd imagine this will be a popular feature! As it's the first time we've done it, please send any items for this column nice and early, so I can judge the size.

Village Hall 'Club' Evening

I'll leave you with a picture from the Village 'Clubs' Evening as I didn't have room for it elsewhere in the magazine:



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Marnhull Cricket Club Needs Your Help!

Cricket has been played in Marnhull for many generations, with records dating back as far as the early 1800s. In the 21st Century, we not only value that long heritage, but also have an exciting vision of the future. Marnhull now has an expanding, community-minded cricket club with excellent facilities, qualified coaches, and a determination to succeed on and off the field of play. Perhaps, most importantly though, we are a club which seeks to include everyone, and prides itself on its friendly, family atmosphere.

We currently play Saturday League Cricket in Dorset Divisions Two and Six, and also some midweek and Sunday non-league fixtures. This season, our first home league fixture will be on the afternoon of Saturday 30th April, when the 2nd XI will play host to Blandford 3rd XI. Please come along and support us if you are able.

We are also delighted to announce that during the course of the 2016 season, we will be making history, when our ladies' team, 'The Marnhull Maidens', will be officially launched.

Our cricket training programme for boys and girls of the surrounding area, is now very well established and supported, and we successfully run several youth sides for Under 15, Under 13, Under 11 and Under 9 age groups. Please see the separate notice about our 'Taster Day' for 11-15 year olds, to be held on 7th April.

So, whatever your age, and whether you already have an interest in cricket, or are perhaps curious about trying it for the first time, or maybe would just like to support your local club and community in one of several non-playing capacities, we are confident you will find a very warm welcome at Marnhull CC, and will enjoy the time you spend with us. Please don't be shy. Get in touch, have a chat, and find out whether you would like to become one of the team! We are all looking forward to meeting you.

Personal Contacts:

Ed Ralph (1st XI captain): 07931 154601;
edwinandlucyralph@hotmail.com

Nick Chambers (Youth cricket): 07769 730167;
chchchambers@aol.com

Diana Ralph (General Enquiries): 01985 844274;
dianaralph1962@hotmail.co.uk

Website: <http://marnhull.play-cricket.com> (Under reconstruction at time of going to press).

Deadline For Next Issue

MID-DAY 19th April

E-mail all texts, announcements and other requests to:
editor@marnhullmessenger.org.uk

Marnhull Fest Volunteers Needed

23rd July 2016

Volunteers needed to help with attractions.

Contact Lisa on 01258 820158

Village Hall Supporters Club

This year we have not reached even half way toward the total number of tickets sold as we had last year - please support the Hall, it needs funds if we are to keep it up to standard and also make improvements. Forms in the Messenger.

Happy May Day!



Marnhull Flower Show Committee would love your help this year to spread some extra May Day cheer around our village!

May Day was once a cause for great celebration, as people gathered to welcome the onset of summer. Why not join us in reviving a part of this ancient tradition?

Just arrange a small posie of flowers, in a jam-jar or recycled tin then gift it to a neighbour or friend, for them to find on their front door/step on

SUNDAY 1st MAY

Giving flowers is a guaranteed way of bringing joy to a new day!

Annual Diary 2016

All events are held at the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

April

1st - Lunch Club @ 12:00
 4th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 4th - Parish Council Meeting @ 19:00
 6th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 6th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 8th - Blackmore Vale Art Group @ 10:30
 8th - Quiet Half Hour of Prayer @ 12:00
 St Gregory's
 9th - Jungle Hut coffee morning @ 11:00
 Marnhull British Legion
 11th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 11th - Women's Institute @ 19:30
 12th - Marnhull Garden Club @ 12:00
 13th - Marnhull Garden Club @ 12:00
 13th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 13th - Mother's Union @ 14:30
 Methodist Church
 13th - Sturminster Newton Floral Group @ 19:30 - Sturminster Exchange
 13th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 14th - Baby & Toddler Group @ 09:30
 17th - Marnhull Acoustic Sessions @ 19:00
 18th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 18th - Music Society @ 19:15
 20th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 20th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 21st - Baby & Toddler Group @ 09:30
 21st - Marnhull Yarners @ 13:30
 Laburnum Cottage
 23rd - Coffee Morning Bring & Buy -
 Weathervane Project @ 10:00 Methodist Church
 25th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 26th - Moviola @ 19:00
 27th - Springhead Open Garden with Stalls and
 Cafe @ 10:00 Springhead Trust
 27th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 27th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 28th - Baby & Toddler Group @ 09:30

May

1st - Marnhull Acoustic sessions @ 19:00
 2nd - Mother's Union Coffee Morning @ 10:30
 Methodist Church
 2nd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 2nd - Parish Council Meeting @ 19:00
 4th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 4th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 5th - Baby & Toddler Group @ 09:30
 6th - Lunch Club @ 12:00
 9th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 9th - Women's Institute @ 19:30
 10th - Marnhull Garden Club @ 12:00
 11th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 11th - Mother's Union @ 14:30
 Methodist Church
 11th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 12th - Baby & Toddler Group @ 09:30
 13th - Blackmore Vale Art Group @ 10:30
 13th - World Prayers @ 12:00
 Church of our lady
 14th - Plant and book sale @ 10:00
 Marnhull British Legion
 14th - Sturminster Newton Floral Group @ 10:30
 Sturminster Exchange
 16th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 16th - Music Society @ 19:15
 18th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 18th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 19th - Baby & Toddler Group @ 09:30
 19th - Marnhull Yarners @ 13:30
 Laburnum Cottage
 20th - Help for Heroes coffee morning @ 10:00
 Church Cottage Church Hill
 23rd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 25th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 25th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 26th - Baby & Toddler Group @ 09:30
 29th - Marnhull Acoustic sessions @ 19:00
 30th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15

June

1st - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 1st - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 3rd - Lunch Club @ 12:00
 4th - Jumble Sale @ 10:15
 Marnhull British Legion
 6th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 6th - Parish Council Meeting @ 19:00
 8th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 8th - Mother's Union @ 14:30 visit to Castle
 Gardens, Sherborne with a cream tea.
 8th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 9th - Baby & Toddler Group @ 09:30
 10th - Blackmore Vale Art Group @ 10:30
 10th - Quiet Half Hour Prayer @ 12:00
 St Gregory's Church
 13th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 14th - Marnhull Garden Club @ 12:00
 15th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 15th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 16th - Baby & Toddler Group @ 09:30
 16th - Marnhull Yarners @ 13:30
 Laburnum Cottage
 20th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 20th - Music Society @ 19:15
 22nd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 22nd - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 23rd - Baby & Toddler Group @ 09:30
 27th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 29th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
 29th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 20:15
 30th - Baby & Toddler Group @ 09:30

NEW: You can now submit your events into a live calendar on the messenger website and they'll be added to this diary in the next issue!

Marnhull Village Care

**A warm welcome to the village
and support for the community since 1976**



April Newsletter

Marnhull Village Care is an organisation made up of volunteers whose role is to welcome newcomers to the village, and to be available to local residents who may need help or practical assistance in some way. Nearly every part of the parish has a Road Contact who will welcome newcomers in their 'patch', ensure that they have a 'Marnhull Directory', and forward any requests for help from anyone living in their area to the committee who, in turn, will advise on, or organise further action. This can be anything from transport to medical appointments, visiting relatives in hospital helping with shopping, a modest scale of charges apply or sitting with someone for a couple of hours.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Help us celebrate 40yrs by attending the Village Hall on July 16th from 10am.

Newcomers Party on September 16th from 7.30 – 9pm

We are always looking for volunteers to help, either for driving or for general assistance. If you have spare time and would like to be part of this community service, please contact either the Chairman, Trevor Vaughan on 01258 821636, or the Secretary, Jill Kieran on 01258 821233.

Similarly, if you need help, or know of anyone who does, please telephone the above numbers and we can try to sort something out.

Marnhull Tennis Club

Marnhull Tennis Club continues to thrive, based at the two courts at the recreation ground, and with a current membership of 92 adults and 37 children.

Turn up and play club sessions take place on Friday mornings throughout the year from 9:30am, and will start again on Thursday evenings from 14th April. We hope to be able to provide some adult coaching at two of the Thursday club nights in April.

Our popular junior coaching sessions will also continue this year, with those for older children on Monday evenings starting on 25th April, and the Wednesday afternoon junior mini tennis coaching starting on 20th April.

Our start of season tournament and Wimbledon Ticket draw takes place on Sunday 24th April, starting at 2pm. All members and prospective members are welcome. There is no entry fee, but please bring along a plate of food to share.

All members are reminded that this year's subscriptions are due by 1st April, and that you must have paid these and have renewed your British Tennis membership to be eligible for the Wimbledon draw.

Once again, for those more competitive members we plan to run two teams in the Shaftesbury and District Doubles Leagues. There will also be a club championship, which will run through the summer. Congratulations to last year's winners: Louella Hamer and Christine Potter (Ladies Doubles), Jeremy Hamer and James Holroyd (Men's Doubles) and John Battersby and Cathy Drew (Mixed Doubles).

The club welcomes new members of all ages and abilities. Further information is available from Helen Butler (Chairman and Coaching - 821767), Malcolm Locke (Treasurer / Memberships - 821168) or Peter Godwin (Secretary - 821211).

Marnhull Parish Council

Marnhull Parish Council have vacancies for new Parish Councillors. There is a limit of 11 Councillors and a requirement of a minimum of 4 for the Council to be quorate (to be allowed to function).

The Roles and Responsibilities of a Parish/Town Council

Generally the role of a parish council is to improve the quality of community life for their parish and its inhabitants. They can:

- Give views on behalf of their community) .on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish.
- Undertake projects and schemes that benefit local residents
- Work in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish.
- Alert relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken.
- Help the other tiers of local government keep in touch with their local communities.

Can I become a Parish Councillor?

You can make a difference by working with your Parish Council, by becoming a Councillor or by just working close together.

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Qualifications·

A person is qualified to become a parish councillor if:

1 He or she is a British subject, or a citizen of the Irish Republic or other Euro-national and on the day he/she is nominated as a candidate for election. is over 18 and an elector.

2 During the whole of the 12 months preceding his or her nomination day, or the day of that election, resided or had his/her principal place of work in the parish or town, or within 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) of it.

Disqualifications

A person may not become a parish councillor if:

1. They hold a paid office or other place of profit in the gift of the Council.
2. They have been declared bankrupt in the past five years and have not repaid their debts
3. They have been convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to not less than 3 months imprisonment (including any suspended sentence) within the past 5 years.

If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor. You can call the Chairman Trevor Vaughan on 821636 or Email. Trevor.mpc@gmail.com

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR FOR YOUR PARISH OF MARNHULL

Table Tennis Club

The Marnhull Table Tennis has been running since April 2014 and meets every Wednesday afternoon in the village hall. We have a spread of ability from learners to more experienced players. Whilst games are competitive, we play for fun (no league teams etc) and to keep active. We now have such keen members that we are meeting and playing on Monday afternoons as well.

So if you want to renew (or start) an interest in Table Tennis just turn up at the village hall on either Monday or Wednesday, 2.15pm to 5.30pm, all equipment provided (except suitable footwear) or phone Boyd 01258 820964 for more information. No joining fees no annual subs just a small contribution towards expenses when you actually play. First week FREE.

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 4 New Street, Marnhull DT10 1PY

From The Surgeries



With the unprecedented pressures on the NHS, it's clear that patients need to be better informed about any conditions they may have and take as much responsibility as possible in managing their own health.

The usual number of daily consultations for a GP is 30 but in our practice, doctors are often seeing in excess of 80 patients a day, with a work schedule stretching from seven in the morning until 10pm, often without a break.

A recent survey found that about 40% of patients who visited a GP, could have been dealt with by another health professional, including Nurse Practitioners and Pharmacists. In many cases, they could have treated themselves with over the counter medication, or accessed the wealth of healthcare advice on www.nhs.uk.

It's essential that we make better and more appropriate use of these, leaving GP appointments for those who really need them, which is why receptionists ask callers about their medical problem, so that they can direct them to the most appropriate way of dealing with their particular issue.

The Ideal Health Exhibition at the Exchange, Sturminster Newton on Thursday April 14th is a great opportunity on our doorstep, to find out more about health and wellbeing issues.

Over forty or so groups and organisations will be taking part - a vast array of experts providing current information regarding many health concerns. There will also be the opportunity to have a mini health MOT and have your cholesterol checked.

Throughout the day, a variety of fitness and exercise specialists will be holding taster sessions including, Chair Exercises, Yogalates (a fusion of Yoga & Pilates), Zumba and the U3A Keep Fit Group – something for everyone. A schedule will be published nearer the time, so that you can go along and take part – or just watch!

More details about all the exhibitors can be found on the Surgery website - www.sturminstersurgery.co.uk and on posters in the Surgery. You can also follow us on Facebook – The Blackmore Vale Partnership and on Twitter @snmcppg and @stursurgery

The Ideal Health Exhibition

April 14th from 12.00- 7.00pm – Free entry.

Willow Plant Supports - Made in Marnhull

If you want to add a bit of rustic charm to your garden this year why not introduce some willow plant supports.

I have a limited number available in different sizes. They look wonderful draped in climbing plants and even look good on their own, adding height and interest to your garden. They also make excellent presents. Please ring Jenny on 01258 821445 for more information.



News from the Nick.
Combating crime
in your neighbourhood
PC 2146 Phil Sugrue
07500 816 258



It DOES happen in Marnhull...

This week, I have been helping a lady from Marnhull who has been called by a person purporting to be from a PPI company with a cheque for her.

What has been unusual about this, is that firstly, she didn't apply for a PPI refund and secondly, these people were going to deliver a cheque to her personally, but they would collect "admin fees" when it was handed over.

Luckily, for all involved, the lady involved has raised concerns with her family and they have been able to safeguard her and ensure that no financial losses have been made although, it has of course, knocked her confidence somewhat.

Please remember that it does happen. Please don't be offended when I say that they will target an area such as Marnhull due to the high percentage of older residents and the perceived wealth of those living in the area.

Advice from Dorset Police remains:-

- Never give your pin or bank details out to anyone over the phone
- Never withdraw cash and send it anywhere via courier or in a taxi
- Never send bank cards anywhere via courier or taxi
- The police and your bank will never ask you to do any of the above.
- If you think you've being scammed, put the phone down, wait for the dead tone and dial 1471. Write down the number, then call the police.

Please do not be embarrassed if you believe you have become a victim or possible victim. If we don't know how and who they are targeting we can't help stop anyone else being defrauded. You can contact us on 999 if a crime is in progress or life in danger. Telephone 101 for non urgent problems. If you have access to the internet, the Dorset Police website at www.dorset.police.uk where you can visit the Do It Online page and report non urgent crimes/problems or queries for the Neighbourhood Policing Team or email us directly at stourvalleysnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 6268
Kate Hann



Kate is at Marnhull Post Office 11.30 - 12.00 and Spar 12.00-12.30 on the first Thursday of every month but can be contacted on 101 at any other time.

Doreen Walters

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Doreen will be held in St Gregorys Church, Marnhull on Friday 8th April at 12 noon

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Royal British Legion



Many of you will have seen reports of the death of Capt. Eric 'Winkle' Brown aged 97 in February. An amazing man who had amazing tales to tell as we found out when he came to the Club to give his time for free to speak on behalf of the Poppy Appeal. We learned how he had flown 487 types of aircraft, made the first aircraft carrier landing and interviewed many of the most notorious Nazi leaders after the war.

All this he told a packed room in a quiet, modest and sometimes amusing way, a true legend his passing leaves the world a poorer place.

Just Bertie donated his time free and many Marnhull businesses gave raffle prizes on Saturday 19th March to raise money for the Air Ambulance. A fancy dress competition brought some very fetching St Trinian type schoolgirls and a headmaster with a wicked looking cane. Yours truly won the prize as Oliver Hardy (now that's typecasting) and the evening raised nearly £250 for the Air Ambulance. So well done all especially Bertie, Lyn and Paul Bartlett for organising it and of course the schoolgirls.

The beer festival is now firmly set for Friday July 1st and Saturday July 2nd, there will be music on both nights and there will be at least one cider for lovers of the apple. Put aside one of these days in your diary and arrange a driver and come on down. There will be a marquee on the back patio and hopefully if the weather is kind there will be camping space in the field so pop down for a quick half (or two).

Changes to the membership structure has led to some confusion and if you haven't received a letter please come and let someone know so we can organise your card. The HQ in their wisdom decided to change everything without bothering to talk to us at the sharp end so we are struggling to make sense of it all. We have only just got a list of members and we are beginning to unravel the mess. Apologies for the confusion.

The jumble sale was a disaster due to some kind of mix up with the Blackmore Vale magazine who did not put the adverts in. Thanks to everybody who put stuff out and then put most of it away again. We did manage to raise £60 but that was small reward for a lot of effort. The next one is on June 4th and if you have anything you can donate give me a call and I will come and collect it.

We will be having a plant and book sale on May 14th, we would like donations of either for that as well please. Worst way come down and have a browse and a cup of tea and a piece of cake and support the Poppy Appeal.

Branch business contact Jack Whitehead on 01258 820800 or email whitehead795@btinternet.com

Marnhull Cricket Club

JUNIOR CRICKET

Training starts on:

Wednesday 13th April 2015 (6.15pm) - **UNDER 9/11/13's**

Friday 15th April (6.15pm) **UNDER 15's only**

at

Marnhull Recreation Ground (DT10 1PS)

New and existing players (boys and girls) welcome

ECB Qualified Coaches/ECB Clubmark Accredited

If you played last year look out for further details and registration forms via e-mail.

For more information, please contact Nick Chambers (Marnhull CC Youth Co-ordinator) on 01258 820281 or e-mail on chchchambers@aol.com

Marnhull Pantomime

As you may be aware Panto did not go ahead earlier this year. Personal commitments had resulted in rehearsals not getting off to the usual start and before we knew it Christmas was approaching and we were falling behind with any chance of producing our normal standard of show!!!

So we made the decision to cancel rather than put on a below par performance, but now we are back and we need you regardless of your skills!

A couple of cast members have 'retired', one has even left the village to get away so we need new some new members. Behind the scenes, front of house, back of the cow/horse/elephant (we have had them all). Can you sing? No? Nor can the rest so come along!

We aim to have panto back in Marnhull for February 2017. Rehearsals start late September, read throughs early September, planning August, social's - now.

Panto does require a certain amount of commitment, it occasionally requires the ability to learn lines (Ha Ha) but most important it requires the desire to have fun. Join panto and you will never look back.....just behind you.

Contact us on j9.williams@yahoo.co.uk, 07900 275411, or look for us on Facebook.

Marnhull Cricket Club



All 11 to 15 year olds (Y7 – Y10)

CRICKET "TASTER" DAY

All abilities welcome and catered for whether you're an experienced player...

OR

want to get back into the game...

OR

just want to have a sociable, fun and energetic day learning new skills.

Thursday 7th APRIL 2016

11:00am – 4:00pm

MARNHULL RECREATION GROUND (DT10 1PS)

Training Sessions, Nets and Games

Level 2 ECB Qualified Coaches (insured and DBS cleared)

FREE LUNCH

JUST TURN UP at 11:00am (trainers/sports kit)

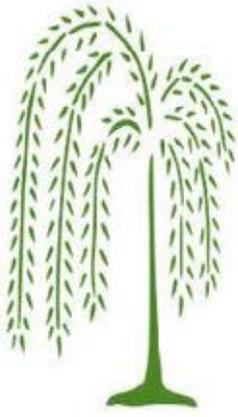
For further details call:

Edwin Ralph (1st XI captain) 07931 154601

or

Nick Chambers (Marnhull CC Youth Co-ordinator) 07769 730167

Visit our website: www.marnhull.play-cricket.com



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Women's Institute



Such is Rob Curtis' fame as a speaker that a record audience gathered to hear his talk entitled "Turnpikes and Dorset Coaching History". Rob is a Blue Badge guide for Wessex with strong local connections: his father was born in Stalbridge.

Rob started with a brief history of roads. Ten thousand years ago humans followed the tracks made by foraging animals as they meandered through the landscape. Those which followed ridgeways had the advantages of being dryer in the rain and offering longer views across the countryside. They were more frequented and began to assume an important role in long-distance travel.

Then came the Romans who constructed their famous all-weather roads linking their fortified townships, and for several centuries Britons could move around with comparative ease. When the Romans left in the 5th century there was no attempt to maintain the road system and the Saxon era saw a return to very local travel on paths and tracks.

This state of affairs continued through the centuries, and in the 18th century it was almost impossible to travel during the winter months except on horseback, and even in the dry weather coaches and traps had to cope with heavily rutted roads which made every journey uncomfortable and hazardous. If Jane Austen's ladies went to stay with relations in the Autumn they did not expect to return home before Spring.

Then onto the scene came John McAdam and his road-building method which made a huge difference to communications. For example in 1750 it took 10 days to travel from London to Edinburgh. By 1830, with the improved road system, the journey time was a mere 2 days.

Rob's talk was too full of content to relay more than a brief impression on this page, but his description of the stage-coach era was illuminating. At its height in the 18th century there were literally thousands of long-distance coaches on the roads. Altogether it is estimated that the whole system required 150,000 horses to pull the coaches and an unknown number more to carry fodder and manure. But a long journey was not something to be embarked upon lightly. If you could afford an inside seat you would be crammed onto padded but upright seats alongside other travellers with your knees touching those of the person opposite. Springing was rudimentary and heating non-existent. For outside passengers life was infinitely worse and in winter the danger of frostbite and hypothermia was a reality. Stops were of short duration and you had to scramble for food and drink. As for "comfort stops," I understand they were non-existent so by the end of a long journey the atmosphere of your carriage might be extremely unpleasant.

The stage-coach age ended abruptly with the arrival of the railways. For a while coachmen could hope to get employment with the railway companies but coaching inns and their staff, ostlers and grooms and the horses themselves were consigned to the past.

Next month we have our Annual Meeting and a social with cheese and wine.
Yvonne Vintiner

Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme

We hoping to start up a new Coffee / Tea Club in the village and we are looking for some willing volunteers who would be happy to come along and help us for a couple of hours. The dates are still to be decided at this stage but it will probably take place once a fortnight in the Village Hall.

If you would like to come along and help out then please call Rose 820484.

Marnhull Music Society

Our Annual Dinner will be held on Thursday 19th May at the Udders Restaurant.

Don't miss this glittering event! Ring Yvonne on 820247 or e-mail on mikyon@aol.com to reserve a place or get a menu.

Marnhull Ramblers and Shorts



The Marnhull Ramble at the end of February was led by Tim; this walk followed, more or less, the perimeter of Blandford Camp. The going was excellent and there were fine views in all directions, including towards Tarrant Rushton, the airfield used for SOE operations during WW2. We were also pleased to see that a blocked footpath report to Dorset County Council had been addressed, and we found a smart stile that replaced the locked gate previously barring the way. The system does work!

Sadly, the walks organised so far in 2016 by Marnhull Ramblers and Shorts have been disproportionately affected by bad weather. The Marnhull Short for March was cancelled due to strong winds and driving rain and the January Ramble was only for the intrepid.

This has made us decide that we need to have a way of cancelling in case of bad weather. From now on, the phone number of the Walk Leader will be given along with the usual details. If there is any doubt whether the walk will take place, you should call the Leader before 9am and if it is clear that the walk is not possible the night before, Colin will send out a notice advising all of the cancellation.

So, let us hope for better weather for Elaine's Ramble across the downlands around Piddletrenthide taking place on 28th April and for Audrey's Short walk on 13th April at a venue to be confirmed. Keep an eye open for the notices around the village giving full details.

If you would like to get email notifications of our walks, contact colin@fancourt.me.uk to be put on the mailing list. For now I am looking forward to our March walk around Mere.

Marnhull & Gillingham Badminton Club

Marnhull & Gillingham
BADMINTON
Club



Badminton for beginners

Monday club social night: 8-10pm (except bank holidays)

Adults £4.50 - Juniors £3.00

Family £7.00 (up to 2 adults & 2 children)

ALL COACHING FREE (Badminton England Coach)

Loads of fun for children and families

Badminton Club Night

Tuesday club night: 7.00-10.00pm

First night free to new members

ALL COACHING FREE (Badminton England Coach)

Intermediate level players always welcome

Badminton senior night

Thursday senior league night: 8.15-10.15pm

The club is interested in players who wish to play at a league level.

The club participates in the salisbury district league - div2 mens and div2 mixed and div3 mixed

From The Churches

What is Prayer?

There is a true story from a soldier in Helmand Province who turned to the chaplain one day and said 'every time we go out of the gates on patrol I say "Please keep us safe" and every time I come back I say "Thank you". Who am I talking to?' The answer to his question is not difficult, it is that he is praying to God.

Prayer comes in many forms and shapes; formal 'liturgy' in Church or in daily prayers, a quick request for something to happen or not to happen, a simple 'thank you' or a cry for help in sadness or despair. The language of prayer has entered into our daily lives, often without us realising it, for example 'Bless You' when someone sneezes, and sometimes utterly inappropriately, how often do we hear someone in the shops or on television responding to something surprising with 'O My God'?

However we pray we should see it as a turning of the heart towards God. When a person prays, he enters into a living relationship with God. Prayer is a great gate leading to faith. Someone who prays no longer lives on his own, for himself, and by his own strength.

The saintly and wonderfully giving Mother Teresa of Calcutta wrote 'I believe there is no one who needs God more than I do. I feel so useless and weak. Because I cannot rely on myself, I rely on him, 24 hours a day. My secret is simple: I pray; I love prayer. The urge to pray is always within me. Prayer enlarges the heart until it is ready to receive God's gift of himself. We would so love to pray properly, but then we fail. If you want to pray better, pray more. If you want to be capable of loving, we must pray.' Despite her own sense of failure miracles were performed in Calcutta – miracles that could only have come by prayer.

She is spot on when she we must pray more. There is a temptation to only pray when things suddenly start to go badly, and if we do that we find it so very hard to pray. It is rather as if we know that we may need to swim one day but do nothing about it. When we fall into the river and desperately need to swim we find we cannot.

So we need to actively decide to pray, to start with a very little prayer but persist daily, allow time for prayer, prepare a place, structure prayer with rituals, pray with the whole self; mind body and soul, discover and practice different ways of praying, praise God, listen to God, ask God and thank God. Never be afraid to ask a trusted friend for help.

To finish the story from Helmand – the soldier asked 'what do I do now?' The Chaplain said he should be baptised so the next day the platoon marched down to the Helmand river and the young man was Christened whilst being guarded by his fellow soldiers.

James Mackain-Bremner
Deacon
Our Lady's Marnhull

Marnhull Churches Sunday Services

Anglican Church of St. Gregory the Great, New Street

8.00 – Communion [spoken]

10.00 – Parish Service with Communion

Except 2nd Sunday when there is a Family Service without Communion.

Weekday services as advertised

Catholic Church of Our Lady, Old Mill Lane

9.30 - Mass

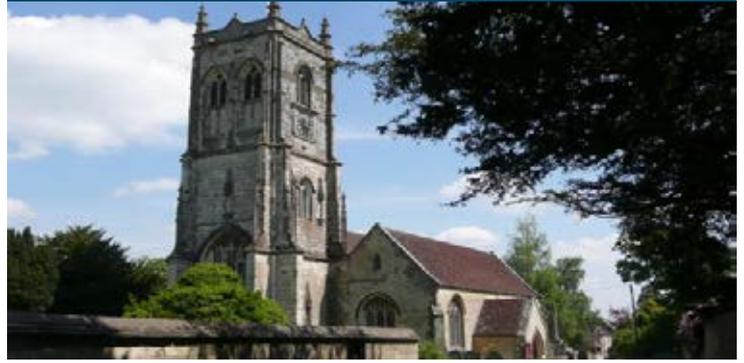
6.00 - Mass

www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk

Marnhull Methodist Church, Burton Street

10.00 - Morning Service

St. Gregory's Church



Services & Events for April 2016

Sunday 3rd Second Sunday of Easter

08.00 – Holy Communion [said]

10.00 – Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 6th

11.00 Holy Communion

Sunday 10th Third Sunday of Easter

08.00 – Holy Communion [said]

10.00 – Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 13th

09.00 - Children's Service led by

St Gregory's Primary School

Sunday 17th Fourth Sunday of Easter

08.00 – Holy Communion [said]

10.00 – Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 20th

09.00 - Children's Service led by

St Gregory's Primary School

Sunday 24th Fifth Sunday of Easter

08.00 – Holy Communion [said]

10.00 – Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 27th

09.00 - Children's Service led by

St Gregory's Primary School

0830 - Morning Prayer is held every
Tuesday to Friday in the Hussey Chapel
and **0800 on Wednesdays**

St. Gregory's Church Register

Baptisms

We welcome Jack Carrick, son of John Carrick and Rachel Carrick, of Marnhull, who was baptised into the Church on March 13th.

Pause for Thought:

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

Albert Einstein

Our Lady's Church



**Catholic Church of Our Lady, Marnhull
& St. Benedict's, Gillingham**
www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk

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

Significant dates April

- 1 – Easter Friday (Solemnity)
- 2 – Easter Saturday (Solemnity)
- 3 – Divine Mercy Sunday
- 4 – The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)

21 – Saint Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Opt Mem)
St Anselm (1033-1109) was born in Aosta (Italy) and joined the Benedictine monastery at Bec in Normandy. He became Abbot and then, in 1093, Archbishop of Canterbury. He endured periods of exile due to his opposition to William II and Henry I, both of whom threatened the Church's liberty. St Anselm is best remembered as an important theologian and the 'Father of Scholasticism'.

23 – Saint George – Patron of England (Solemnity)
St George (+ c.303) was martyred in Palestine during the persecution of Diocletian at Diospolis (Lydda, now Lod, near Tel Aviv, Israel), where his tomb can be found. Legend depicts him killing the dragon, a symbol of the triumph of good over evil. He is patron saint of several countries and regions, including England.

25 – Saint Mark the Evangelist (Feast)
St Mark (+c.75), the author of the Gospel bearing his name, is often identified as the young man who ran away when the Lord was arrested. He joined St Paul and St Barnabas on their first missionary journey and later became St Paul's secretary in Rome. He is thought to have established the Church in Alexandria and to have died a martyr there.

29 – St Catherine of Siena – Patron of Europe (Feast)
St Catherine (1347-1380) was born at Siena, one of twenty-five children. She persuaded Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from Avignon and later tried to unite the Church during the Great Schism and moved to Rome, where she died aged 33. She was proclaimed patroness of Italy in 1939, Doctor of the Church in 1970 and patron of Europe in 1999.

Parish People

- The ashes of Veronica Rosalie Jane Hatcher (formally of Stalbridge) were buried at Our Lady's on 13 Feb.
- Joshua Moulding was baptised at Our Lady's on 14 Feb.

Pilgrimage

The parish pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham will take place 9-12 May. There are still some places available on the coach. If you are interested, please contact Annette on 07986 301357.

The Methodist Church



HIRE THE HALL!

The Methodist Church Hall is a good place to hire for family parties and social or other events for individuals, clubs, societies and classes. It is easy to find and parking is available. Rates are reasonable and bookings can be made by contacting Mrs Marlene Plowman on 01258 820869.

Churches Together

The celebration of Easter is prolonged throughout the Easter season, with the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday being celebrated as one huge feast day - the 'Great Sunday'.

The Churches Together Committee will review the ecumenical prayers we held on the Fridays of Lent and reflect on the balance and effectiveness of the programme. If you would like to make a comment or suggestion for further improvement, please contact your respective Church representative, or ring Peter Wardley (820815) before the next planning meeting on 5 May.

Prayers for the World

Churches Together will continue to pray for world peace on the second Friday of each month (12-12.30) and details for the next three months are as follows:

- 8 April - Methodist Church - Rev Paul Arnold
- 13 May - Our Lady's Church - Rev Fr Martin Budge
- 10 June - St Gregory's Church - Rev Peter Colebrook

Interfaith Calendar

22-30 April – Pesach (Passover) is an 8-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. The story of the Exodus is recounted and the on-going struggle of all peoples for freedom from internal and external tyranny is celebrated. A special meal is a central feature.

Village Hall Hire Charges For Weddings & Parties

9 a.m. to 1 p.m....£30.00	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.... £30.00
6 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. (midnight on Sat and Sun).... £50.00	
Wedding hire... £150 per day	
Booking Officer: 01258 821427	

QUIET HALF HOUR PRAYER

8th April at St Gregory's Church

12.00 - 12.30pm

ALL WELCOME

St. Gregory's C.E.VA Primary School

Children in Pleck class have had an exciting time learning all about plants. They have planted so many seeds and with lots of water on them over the next few weeks their outside classroom is going to look like a jungle in the summer! One of our Dad's has built us a giant strawberry planter so hopefully there will be lots of delicious strawberries to eat in the summer. The 'growing' excitement culminated in a trip to Orchard Park Garden Centre where they learnt about the best conditions for plant growth, how different plants have different needs and what different plants can be used for.



Tapshays class were lucky enough to visit Kingston Lacy for an 'Ancient Egypt Experience Day'. In the morning the children were split into groups and took part in a range of activities. They had the chance to look around the Egyptian Room in the house, learn about hieroglyphics by writing their name in hieroglyphics on papyrus paper, take part in a mini archaeological dig where they hunted for Egyptian artefacts and look at the obelisk and sarcophagus located outdoors.



After lunch all the children joined together to watch a theatrical mummification demonstration. This was great fun and they learnt even more about the mummification process. A fantastic day was had by all – what a lovely way to end their Ancient Egyptians topic!



Children in Hains and Walton class set off for an exciting adventure on a coach to Corfe Castle. They carefully walked up to the castle avoiding the narrow slits and had a fabulous time learning about how people lived in the castle in the past, like how and where people went to the toilet! They also found the keep and saw the murder holes. It was an amazing day.

Many of our children have taken part in various sporting events during the last few weeks. Our Year 4, 5 and 6 swimmers took part in a friendly gala at Port Regis School with Motcombe Primary School. The following day our older children took part in the North Dorset Gala at St Mary's Shaftesbury, there were some splendid individual performances and many personal best times were achieved. Thirty two schools were invited to attend and

we are now waiting to hear if any of our children have qualified for the County Gala at Bournemouth.

Several of our football teams have been involved in tournaments. Sixteen children went to the Year 3/4 Gillingham Cluster Schools Festival. Both of our teams played well with our A team finishing third in their festival and our B team winning theirs following an exciting penalty shoot out after extra time. Great team work was displayed by our Year 5/6 footballers who came runners up in the County Tournament.

Our High Fives team travelled to Sherborne School to represent the Gillingham area at the North Dorset Tournament. They played brilliantly throughout the tournament and finished 3rd overall, the girls are now looking forward to welcoming St Georges School, Bourton, at the end of this term for a football match. It is great to see so many of our boys and girls experiencing a wide range of sports and activities and giving them the opportunity to develop a healthy active lifestyle as well as participate in competitive sport.

The last day of term was celebrated when the Easter Bunny hopped into school hiding Easter Eggs for all of the children to find.

From everyone at St Gregory's

Jungle Hut Pre-School

We have had an amazing Spring term with lots of exciting activities and events the children have enjoyed using their creative skills to make the Easter display for the window at Robin Hill Stores. If you have a minute please pop down and have a look.

The children are looking forward to swapping their beautifully made Easter cards and Easter eggs with the reception class at St Gregory's next door. As well as Easter egg hunts every day during the last week of term.

The children have enjoyed exploring the environment around our Pre-school which have included St Gregory's church, local shops and the Doctor's clinic.

Our Tapestry online learning Journeys continue to keep parents up to date with their child's progress here at the Jungle Hut giving them a valuable insight into what their child has been up to during their time with us.

Next term we have some very exciting visits, late May we are taking some of our older children to Bristol Zoo included in this visit will be a Jungle boogie Educational session which is tailored to the age of the children visiting can't wait.

Early July we are taking our school leavers to visit our adopted chimpanzee at Monkey World again what an exciting day awaits with a keeper giving time to tell us all about Rodders progress and to see Rodders and what he is up to now again another fantastic day to look forward to.

We have three fundraising events coming up by the time you read this we will have had our Easter Bingo and Car boot sale. Funds raised by the Bingo are going towards developing our inside and outside music areas with funds raised from the Car boot going towards funding the visit to Bristol Zoo.

Coming up on April 9th is a coffee morning and cake sale at the RBL Club please come along for a coffee and chat look forward to seeing you funds raised will go towards a new table and chairs for our very popular lunch club.

We take children from 2 years of age and are open from 9.00 – 3.00 Monday to Friday inclusive offering a flexible childcare service if you are interested in booking a place for your child please get in touch we now offer home visits in the comfort of the child's home to help explain the childcare we offer and to work alongside parents to decide children's starting points and needs before entering the Jungle hut. We use this opportunity to give parents important documents needed before starting as well as useful information about child development.

September places are becoming very limited so please get in touch soon.
Sue.

St. Mary's Catholic School

Earlier this month we held our first Hygiene Day. The school nurse came in and spoke to all the children about everything from hand washing to head lice. The children took their learning back into the classroom where they embarked on the production of bath bombs, nit lotion and posters to emphasise the importance of good hygiene.

As is tradition, the children (and staff) went to great lengths to celebrate World Book Day. There were some fantastic costumes and the children had a great fun during the day working on a range of activities.



We have had visitors into school who were incredibly impressed by the behaviour of the children. They felt they were exceptionally polite, caring and friendly, giving the school a real sense of being a happy community. This is never more evident than watching the whole school playing a collective game of hide and seek during morning break!



We have also put 'Good Deed' boxes into the classroom. Each class has a box that children can post messages about good deeds or friendly gestures that they have experienced. These good deeds are hung on our Friendship Tree for all to share.

During this term, year 3 and 4 have been learning to play the flute. They put together a fantastic concert for parents and some have chosen to continue with lessons so we are looking forward to listening to them as they progress.

Our Spring Day of Faith focused on The Stations of the Cross. The children had the opportunity to journey around the school grounds, learning more about each one of the stations.

Everyone made a great effort for Sports Relief by running a mile around the school field. The children and staff all pulled on their trainers to walk, jog or sprint their way to victory raising a tidy sum for the charity. Our sporting achievements continued with our yr 5/6 competing in a swimming gala at St Mary's, Shaftesbury coming away with an array of 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions. Our High Fives team played a fantastic match against Stour Provost, winning 6-0!

Our football team also took part in the Gillingham Football Festival and played incredibly well.

Best wishes,
Charlotte Targett

Marnhull Baby & Toddlers

On Wednesday 24th February we went to Newstone House Colten Care nursing home. It was a great success, we had a lovely morning interacting with some of the residents. We did puzzles, built blocks, played with the parachute and beach ball. It was great to see young and old smiling and laughing. It really does spread so much joy to the elderly. This is going to become a regular visit.



We went back on Friday 18th March where we had great fun playing hoopla and hunting for Easter eggs.



With Mother's day coming up, on the 3rd March we did some lovely crafts where the children's hands become the flowers for them to give their mums. We also got some plants for the children to give to their mums. We also had the lovely Diana Stephens come with her Phoenix cards in aid of Help for heroes, which is always a success.

Then on 10th March we had Gill come with Usborne books, which always goes down a treat, with a raffle as well.

Baby and toddler had a table at the Village hall social evening, we had people making play dough models and the best one won an Easter egg. It was great fun, we had some really creative models. The winner was the lovely Viv with her flower well done.

There is only a few days left with our bunnies in the shops, so if you do see them please hop to it before you miss them.

Coming up on the 24th March is our Easter celebration with Easter crafts and an Easter egg hunt. Then we are off for 2 weeks we will be back on 14th April.

Hope you all have a lovely Easter.

Emma and Dee

Weathervane Project



We still await the final 'go-ahead' from the Diocesan Advisory Committee before work can start on our Community Project to restore and reinstate the weathervane on St Gregory's Church tower. We will let you know as soon as we get it!!

In the meantime, please support our Coffee Morning on 23rd April (advertised elsewhere in the magazine) and any donations (cheques payable to 'St Gregory's Church, Marnhull') can be sent via The Venerable Tony Wilds, The Rectory, New Street, Marnhull DT10 1PZ. Please mark the envelope 'Weathervane'. **THANK YOU!**

Marnhull Yarners - Knit and spin a yarn or two!

I am really pleased to report that two new people came to the inaugural meeting of the Marnhull Yarners on St Patrick's Day. Over tea and biscuits we shared our current and past projects as well as sharing techniques and solving problems. In particular we covered:

- * Different ways of using circular needles
- * New ways of stitching knitting together which is both easy and invisible
- * The group would really like to learn to crochet, perhaps we could start a project that we could all contribute to

I apologise if anyone called to join in February to find no answer. Through a misunderstanding of mine, as I was away the whole of February I couldn't pick up messages until the end of the month. But if you have a burning ambition to come along we have space for one or two more. The next meeting is at Laburnum Cottage, Sodom Lane, Marnhull, DT10 1 HR on 14 April at 1.30pm. Call 01258 820853 to book your place.

We have ditched the idea of meeting every third Thursday as we are all very busy people so will agree the next date at each meeting and report it in the Marnhull Messenger.

Clean for the Queen

On Thursday 14th April Marnhull WI are organising a Clean up of litter and rubbish on our Roads and Footpaths. If you would like to join us, please phone Margaret Bunch on 01258 820524 or Nicola Denham on 01258 821343

Marnhull WI 90th Birthday Celebration



The Members of Marnhull WI celebrated in style for their 90th Birthday Lunch in Marnhull Village hall. The committee decorated the hall with bunting and decorated the tables with spring flowers.

Nicola Denham President of Marnhull WI, welcomed Linda Whatmanm DFWI County Chairman, and Presidents from Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Blandford and Shillingstone.

Members enjoyed a delicious Two course Lunch provided by Liz Jones of Beautiful Buffets, followed by Coffee and mints. Agnes Hopkins (who has been a member of Marnhull since 1986) and Donna Denham our youngest member cut the beautiful Birthday cake made by Judy Fyfe.

This was followed by much dancing, singing and finishing with Auld Lang Syne and Knees up Mother Brown. Sarah Chant provided the singing and playing the Piano Accordion.

Margaret Bunch

Community Speedwatch: are you interested?

At the last Parish Council meeting, concern was expressed by some parishioners and members of the council that they had witnessed vehicles speeding through the village. There followed a brief discussion during which PCSO Kate Hann explained how we could help ourselves reduce these incidents through the formation of a Marnhull Community Speedwatch group.

The group would need to consist of at least six volunteers willing to go out in groups of three and set up watches at suitable times and durations. If we get enough people to set up the group, Kate explained that she would designate locations within the village that are suitable and train members of the group in the use of the equipment and procedures. The purchase of all equipment will be arranged through the Parish Council.

If you are concerned about speeding vehicles on our roads - if you have some spare time to offer, are concerned about your family or pet's safety then please come and volunteer. You can contact me on rob.cullender@btinternet.com or call/text me on 07960 899540.

Rob Cullender



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Village Hall Building Development

WE ARE ON THE WAY!!!!

The survey / questionnaire (closed 31 December 2015)

Many thanks to all those who very helpfully completed the questionnaire. Here follows a summary of the results. A selection of the individual views and comments has also appeared in the Robin Hill Stores window, in the Village Hall, and at the 11th March event.

Responses - 10 user and other organisations representing 1415 members/attenders responded, plus 23 individuals

The four most frequent mentions

Toilets - Many organisations and individuals raised the urgent need for a general toilet upgrade.

Storage - Raised many times. Along with extending the hall (below) there was a need to incorporate much increased and more accessible storage.

Hall extension - General support by nearly all. The 'average' view was that some increase in the main hall floor area would be valuable subject to the storage issue being met. Additional hall space would increase the capacity for some clubs, make some current events easier and safer to run, and increase the lettable of the Hall to outside organisations and functions.

Chairs - Although relatively recently replaced after extensive consultation the current chairs attracted frequent comment.

Other recurring mentions

General decor - Need to refresh.

Stage facilities - Two entrance / exits. Use of small room for performers.

Small room - Reinstatement of small room for meetings, very small groups, other occasional uses

Windows at end main hall - Replace (if extending or anyway) with floor to ceiling, accessible for users to open, and allow complete opening in part (eg sliding doors) allowing access to marquees etc

Floor - Several potential and existing organisations (eg dancing, physical exercise and other activities) cite attraction of wooden (suspended) floor. Apart from costs there are pros and cons.

Variety of ideas - To ensure a Hall fit and attractive for expanding population, multiple activities, increasing standards and expectations.

What now? The way forward.

On the basis of these results and other information the Executive Committee has decided that the earlier proposals, which have planning permission, need revisiting with an open mind. The plan is to proceed on the following timetable:

Review - Existing architect to revisit the existing extension plan in the light of the issues listed under survey results and produce a number of options and estimated costs. - **Has started**

Also architect prepare separate proposal for toilet upgrade as a potential separate earlier project. - **March / April**

Article in Marnhull Messenger on survey results - **1st April**

Furnishings, finishes, ideas - Arrange for samples and possibly visits to a number of village halls for those interested. - **March/April/May**

Executive Committee meeting - Initial consideration of options from architect. Further work if necessary in preparation. - **May**

Full Management Meeting involving all user organisations - **June**

Process of working up detailed scheme and detailed costings, launching a major local fundraising campaign and grant applications - **July**

The works - **2017** (depending on funding)

Finance and Fundraising Plans

The May Messenger will carry a full explanation of the current funds held for the Building Development, the anticipated costs, and an outline fundraising plan.

An unexpected donation

In the meantime we are delighted to say that the Table Tennis Club has generously donated £100 from its members' fees - thank you very much. This adds to the growing sums already provided or pledged by the original substantial legacy, the Parish Council, the Tennis Club, and individuals.

John Dowsett for the Village Hall Executive Committee. 01258 821534

Marnhull Garden Club



Instead of a talk on thatching, our new Chairman Ian Pentland welcomed a substitute, at the very last minute, of Sue Hazeldean, who stepped into the breach and provided an interesting talk on Herbaceous Perennials.

The definition actually refers to a plant which lasts more than two years. Mostly, not always, they die down in winter. Sue, who is a trained Garden Designer and Plantswoman, prefers late-flowering specimens. As she said, the early part of the year is filled with bulbs and fruit blossom, but from end-July onwards, the garden needs colour, and this is where perennials come to their own. She advised us that now is the time to stake, up to 2/3rd of the final height of the plant, before the growth really starts, and to use cane or pea-sticks and green/black string - nothing is worse than a lanky plant yanked in the middle by orange binder twine on bright plastic stakes. And at this time of year, you won't trample on tender foliage if you use a board to stand on. It is also time to split late-flowering plants: water the hole and see if it is a "sink", and then replant, and add a layer of mulch on top (not in the planting hole). She added that a label pushed into the ground at the rear of the plant will not become illegible due to weather, rather than have garden-centre labels sticking out and looking ugly. When planting, she advised in clumps, not singly which tends to the "dolly-mixture" border and looks awful. Remove any flower buds from new plants - you need the energy to go to roots, not flowers.

She then showed us some examples from Waterperry Gardens, Oxford and several of the RHS borders - not everyone can have a 10 foot border, but most gardens can accommodate at 6 ft one. And remember, aspect is most important - not that many plants flourish in north-facing, tree-shaded areas. One of the more interesting recommendations was to use clumps of grasses interspersed with summer bulbs - they looked stunning (and deter slugs).

The next meeting is on 12th April - Summer Hanging Baskets, by Chris of Thorngrove Centre, and visitors are always welcome. There is also a visit to Castle Gardens on 13th April, for a talk and spending-splurge with 25% discount, starts at 6.45 pm. There is a coach trip to Hillier Gardens at Romsey on 11th May - details from Malcolm 821042.

SB

Marnhull Parish Council

The Village Hall Management Committee is delighted that its two events in February and March were well supported and much appreciated:

- **Old Time Music Hall:** Some 55 people came and entered into the spirit of the evening with the majority in period dress, and all singing, flag waving, and drinking appropriately. A good time was had by all and the Village Hall Development Fund gained to the tune of more than £300. Thanks to all those who contributed in any way.

- **Unnamed!!!!:** Early in March we experimented with a convivial evening, inviting all organisations using the village hall (and some others) to make themselves known and provide some sort of entertainment or game of skill and knowledge.

Twenty groups rose to the challenge in great style, resulting in a busy buzzing evening, and at its height 93 people were counted on the floor of the Hall with more behind the bar. This seemed to be a great success and maybe followed in due course with variations on this theme. Again, many thanks to all those who put in great imagination and effort.

John Dowsett for the Village Hall Executive Committee

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Marnhull Music Society

There were 22 members and 1 visitor at our March meeting. Our speaker was Erica Ramsden who spoke to us about iridology and homeopathy.

Erica trained in London and Germany, has been a practitioner for many years and hopes to be working from her home in Marnhull from May of this year.

Iridology is based on observation of the iris of the eye, looking through a glass with 40x magnification, and we were shown a variety of pictures to illustrate this. Practitioners relate what they see to possible problems in the body.

There is a change to our next meeting on April 13th when Deidre Hills will be leading us with a talk and discussion about Mothers' Union and its activities and projects.

We will now be having an extra meeting on May 11th when Keith Collis will be our speaker with the topic "I'm a good driver aren't I?"

Proposed Cribbage Club

Would anyone like to join a cribbage club?

To be held in the Village hall once a month on the last Friday evening of the month, starting Friday, 29th April 2016 at 7.30pm. At the recent "clubs" evening, 18 people expressed an interest.

We are all novices (so they say) and since this is a new club we will have to make up the format at the first meeting so expect some lively debates

Have a fun evening - Las Vegas comes to Marnhull

For more information contact Barbara Cornford on 01258 821427

St Gregory's Church Concerts - April

Chris Mahon, organist of St. James' Shaftesbury returns to present the first 'Tuesday @ 12' concert of the new season at 12 noon on Tuesday 12th April. Feel free to pop-in for 30 minutes of organ music.

At 7.00pm on Saturday 23rd April, Stephen Binnington will be playing an attractive and varied programme of organ music by Bach, Reger (centenary year) and Franck, among others. Programmes are £5 at the door in aid of church funds.

For further details of this exciting series in the Dorset calendar, please see the church website or email: marnhullstgregs.music@gmail.com

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Child Okeford Flower Arranging Club

Child Okeford Flower Arranging Club hold their next meeting at 2.15 pm on Tuesday 19 April in Child Okeford Village Hall. Florist Tattie Graham will give a demonstration entitled 'Wedding Flowers' and will then lead a practical workshop. Everyone is most welcome - take part in the workshop or, if you prefer, just watch the demonstration. For more information please contact Sue Brown on 01258 863775.

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mon April 4th - Bingo 7pm | Sat April 9th - The Silhouettes | Sat April 16th - The Dale Fender Band |
| Mon April 18th - Bingo 7pm | Sat April 23rd - Alto | Sat April 30th - Reunion |
| Mon 2nd May - Bingo 7pm | Sat 7th May - Lynne Kennedy Duo | |

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Marnhull Neighbourhood Planning Group

Survey to Take Place in June 2016

In the past few weeks the MNPG have been keeping a watching brief on the progress of North Dorset District Council (NDDC) as it has developed and gained approval for Part 1 of the District Local Plan. This Plan has now been adopted and NDDC has started working on the schedule for the preparation of Part 2 of the Local Plan. Proposals for development in Marnhull must conform with any District Local Plan targets and that is why we have had to wait for Local Plan Part 1 adoption.

NDDC have now indicated that they will be ready for inputs from villages from Summer 2016. Marnhull has been tasked to provide approximately 70-80 dwellings in the period 2011 to 2031. Of these, a significant number have already been built, or have gained planning approval by NDDC. We are therefore left to provide approximately 35 dwellings between now and 2031.

We need now to indicate where these dwellings should be located. From our previous survey, we have worked up a number of criteria that we could use to decide on the sites where dwellings should be built in the village. We need to conduct another survey to decide on the priorities that villagers wish to be applied to the various selection criteria. The survey form will be in the June issue of the Marnhull Messenger and we have secured funding through the Parish Council for a prize draw for all survey returns and we hope that this will encourage maximum participation in the survey.

As stated above, we are following the policies of the NDDC Local Plan, as it develops. A recent change in policy in the Local Plan is particularly relevant to Marnhull and states that there is no obligation to provide affordable housing for developments of 10 dwellings, or less. The preference expressed from the first village survey was for groups of houses to be 5 or less. This means that any affordable dwellings will not be provided automatically with any development of market houses, but will need to be justified and funded separately. It is not clear, for now, how the MNPG can ensure that affordable houses will be part of the mix of houses built in the village to 2031.

University of the Third Age

Lynda Thompson spoke about her experiences as a crew member taking part in Operation Drake in the East Indies, travelling from the UK to the Canaries.

She sailed on the Eye of the Wind a 150ton, 40m long brigantine with a steel hull and teak decks built in 1911. With over 759 sq. Metres of sail and a maximum crew of 12, the Eye of the Wind originally operated between South America, Cornwall and the Baltic trading in hides, salt and china clay.

Lynda had never sailed before so she had to learn very quickly as they were to sail halfway to the Equator from Bristol to the Canary Islands. The journey was to take them across stormy winter seas and her time on the ship would involve climbing aloft to overhaul the buntings, bracing the yards, hoisting the mains'l, taking the helm and keeping a sharp look-out. All of which was completely new and although she did spend some time with the crew in Bristol before sailing to learn "the ropes" so to speak, she had to be a quick learner. All people on board had to take turns in working the ropes for the sails and also taking turns at the wheel so some navigation had to be learnt as well.

The many tasks were undertaken by everyone taking turns each day such as washing the decks, polishing the brass and keeping everything in ship-shape order. Help with the cooking was also shared with the permanent crew. Lynda showed many slides of her adventure to show details of the life on board and eventually arrived safely in Tenerife in the Canaries after a journey full of new experiences and with muscles that she did not know that she had!!

Due to unforeseen circumstances the next meeting will be on the 14th April, at 10am at the Father's House, Shaftesbury. Not the 7th as originally advertised.

The Marnhull Flower Show

on

Saturday 19th July

New for 2016!

The Charity Class will be
Flower Power

Watch out for details of a floral design entry

This year we have chosen to give all entry fees and donations from this class to The Westminster Hospital Garden fund

Handicrafts; Classes include

A greetings card, cross stitch, quilting (including patchwork), a hand knitted article, a shopping bag, a decorated sewing accessory, an item of crochet or lace, a cushion cover, a piece of jewellery and a machine made garment and a class for anything else!

Don't forget it is time to sow tomatoes and other tender crops.

Cookery Classes will be announced in the next Marnhull Messenger including the men's class!



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Marnhull 12K Application Form



Sunday 17th April 2016 - 10.30

The 12 is organised under the Association of Running Club rules and a certificate of course accuracy has been applied for and will be available on race day. It's a headphone free race; the course is mildly undulating and is run on county lanes. The race is limited to 200 entries and runners must be over the age of 16.

Limited car parking on site, limited changing facilities, toilets, medical support and free refreshments available for all runners.

Registration for on the day entries and number collection is in the School Hall between 8.45- 10.15am. Numbers will not be sent in advance.

Fees: Marnhull 12 £8 Affiliated, £10 Unaffiliated, £2 extra for entry on the day.

I can't wait to run the Marnhull 12K. Here is my address Post Code

Phone number Email

DOB..... Age on race day (17/4/16)..... and I am male/female.

I am currently affiliated to..... and I agree to pay St Gregory's PTFA £8 and I have enclosed a cheque for this amount. OR I am not affiliated with a club and have enclosed a cheque for £10 made payable to St Gregory's PTFA

I also agree that the organizers will in no way be held responsible for any injury (including fatal), illness, accident to my person or loss of my property as a result of participation in this event. I will abide by the governing rules and understand the organizers decision is final.

Signed Date.....

Please send your completed form and money to: Race Director, 10 Fellowsmead, Marnhull, Dorset, DT10 1QE before 1st April 2016

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Smart Meters.

Energy and the price of it is frequently in the news along with suggestions of how we could reduce our usage.

One of the Government initiatives was the introduction of smart meters. These are the new generation of gas and electricity meters, they show the real time usage on a monitoring device with a visual display which is installed in your home where you can see it.

Most smart meters send the readings directly back to the energy supplier using mobile phone signals. The Government would like these meters to be in every home in the next four years and has placed a requirement for energy companies to offer to install them in every home but, there is not actually any legal obligation for a consumer to agree to have one installed.

Smart meters may offer benefits to the user by providing real time usage information in pounds and pence thus creating more accurate bills as there will be no further need for estimated billing.

As the energy companies are under significant pressure to install them there is a concern that energy companies will be pulling out all the stops in an attempt to get consumers to agree to the installation and employ aggressive or underhand selling tactics such as not providing clear information about consumers' choices.

It is also possible that some of the more unscrupulous companies will use the installation of a new meter as an opportunity to sell additional products to people. Ofgem has enacted the Smart Metering Installation Code of Practice, which protects consumers by prohibiting sales attempts during installation (unless previous consent has been given by the household).

If you have concerns please report it to the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06.

Child Okeford Village Hall

Forest Forge, the Hampshire based theatre company, is touring with a new play, UpBeat, which is set against a backdrop of the rural waterways of Wessex. It follows the lives of a brother and sister who, in their quest for different horizons, embark on separate journeys of discovery.

Written by Deborah Gearing, the play includes live music and dance to explore the impact of the waterways on all our lives. Suitable for families (suggested minimum age 7), UpBeat will be at Child Okeford Village Hall on Friday 8 April at 7.30 pm. Tickets, £9 adults (£7 under 18), may be purchased in advance from Child Okeford Cross Stores and will also be available on the door.

Marnhull Garden Club



We started the year with a talk by Andrew Hutchinson on Weeds and how to Control them – the Control bit being the one most of us are interested in!

First – what is a weed? Actually it is just a flower out of place. One man's cornflower patch is another man (the farmer's) weed. Most of what we call weeds were originally plants of cultivated land, and most of our cultivated plants were bred and cross-bred from wildlings. The reason we dislike "weeds" is that they compete for water, space and nutrients with whatever it is we are trying to cultivate, be it wheat, potatoes or dahlias.

Most "weeds" are annuals and they specialised in seeding themselves on any patch of bare ground, and they evolved so their seeds can lie dormant for many years – even centuries. That is why scarlet poppies (for the Commonwealth) and cornflowers (for France) are the commemorative flower of the battlefields of World War I. Some of the "weeds" in the UK travelled north after the retreat of the Ice in years past, which explains why we have less native weed varieties than in the Continent – some plants just didn't make the crossing before the North Sea and Channel developed.

Andrew's "day job" was with a manufacturer of chemical to eradicate farm weeds and he developed a base of pictures of weed seedlings to teach new salesmen who the enemy was. He also learned that most counties – and villages within counties – have their own individual names for weeds, some of which are very rude (but descriptive). We had a slide show of "know thy enemy", and I think most of us recognised the more common, but some were quite new, probably because we don't have the right conditions for them.

He finished up talking about Japanese knotweed, one of the notifiable weeds. It is an offence to grow it, and disposal must be at a licensed site. It contributes to flooding, hinders biodiversity and houses with it in the garden can be unsaleable. Because it can tolerate -35°, grow 7 metres horizontally and 3 metres deep, it is extremely difficult and expensive to remove, but it can be done with persistence and chemicals, and now there is an imported (from Japan) insect which may help control it. It is edible so maybe someone should market it as the new "super food" ... it is supposed to taste like sour rhubarb. It has herbal medicinal uses, and is like by bees.

The next meeting is the AGM, and members are reminded to bring a plate of food for the American Supper (and their own alcohol). No subs to be paid until March. Visitors are always welcome.

SB

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Crossword and Sudoku Answers

6	2	3	7	9	4	8	5	1
1	7	4	8	5	3	9	2	6
8	5	9	6	1	2	4	3	7
9	6	5	1	2	8	7	4	3
4	3	7	9	6	5	1	8	2
2	8	1	3	4	7	5	6	9
3	4	8	2	7	1	6	9	5
7	9	2	5	8	6	3	1	4
5	1	6	4	3	9	2	7	8

Hard

2	6	1	8	9	4	3	7	5
3	4	5	2	7	1	6	8	9
9	7	8	6	5	3	1	4	2
1	5	6	3	4	2	7	9	8
8	3	7	5	6	9	2	1	4
4	9	2	1	8	7	5	3	6
5	8	9	7	1	6	4	2	3
7	2	4	9	3	8	6	1	
6	1	3	4	2	8	9	5	7

Medium

- ACROSS**
 1. Snipes 4. Nacho 6. Bat 7. Agnostic 8. Zinc 11. Yodel 13. Ma'am 15. Insight 16. Ottoman
 17. Trek 19. Twain 21. Ides 24. Icknield 25. Way 26. Booby 27. Enamel
- DOWN**
 1. Stein 2. Pygmy shrew 3. Snood 4. Natal 5. Cicada 6. Buzz 9. Inner 10. Clink 12. East Anglia
 13. Maori 14. Agave 18. El Nino 19. Tokay 20. Anise 22. Drawl 23. Spey

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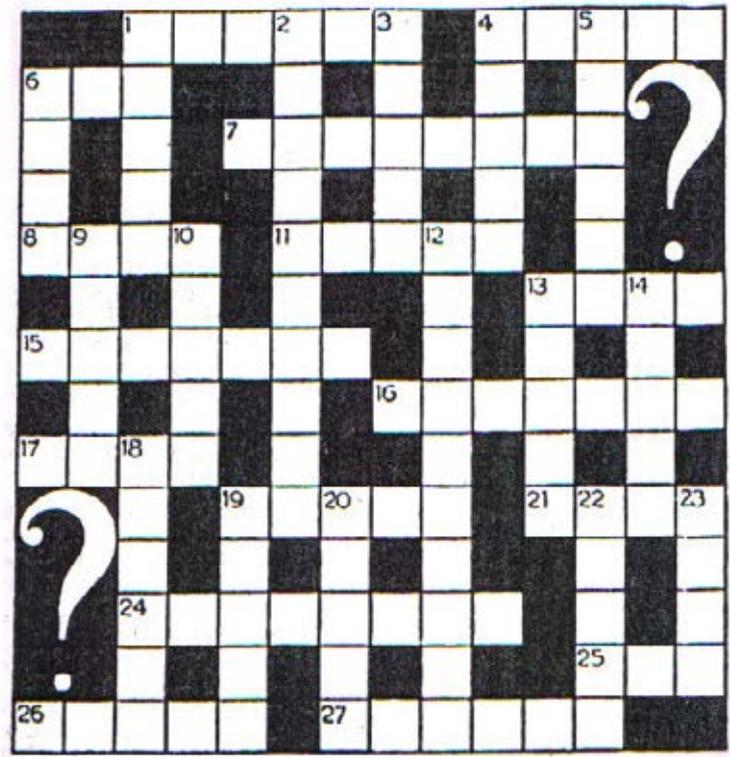
You can find us at the Mindful Café at The Hub, off Station Road, Stalbridge. The café runs on the first Monday of each month, between 10.00 am and 12 noon.



All welcome

If you would like to help and support Mindful, or for more information, contact:

Chair & Membership Secretary, Sally Nutbeem 01747 852153
(email snutbeem@gmail.com)



Hard Difficulty

				4	5
1	7	4	8		
				2	
	6	5	1		4
		7		6	2
			3		9
3					
		2			3 1
		6		9	

Medium Difficulty

			8			5
				7		6
					3	
		6				8
	3		5			1
4	9	2	1			
		9			4	2
	2			3	5	
	1					9

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For more details please contact Judy Cooper. Tel: 01305 260284, email: weatherburysingers@gmail.com or visit our website www.weatherburysingers.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you

ACROSS

- 1) Wading birds with brown plumage and long straight bills. (6)
- 4) Small piece of tortilla topped with melted cheese and peppers etc. (5)
- 6) The only mammal capable of flight. (3)
- 7) Person who believes that nothing can be known of the existence or not of God. (8)
- 8) Metal used for galvanising iron and steel. (4)
- 11) Sing by alternating between falsetto and normal voice. (5)
- 13) Respectful form of address for female Royalty. (4)
- 15) Intuitive understanding. (7)
- 16) Empire ruled by Osman 1. (7)
- 17) Ox wagon journey in Africa. (4)
- 19) Surname adopted by author Samuel Longhorne Clemens. (5)
- 21) In the Roman calendar a day in the middle of the month. (4)
- 24) and 25A) Ancient trackway from Norfolk to Wiltshire. (8)
- 25) See 24A. (3)
- 26) Large tropical seabird of the gannet family. (5)
- 27) The hardest substance in the human body. (6)

DOWN

- 1) Earthenware beer mug. (5)
- 2) Very small mouselike mammal with a pointy nose. (5-5)
- 3) Hairnet or pouch worn at the back of a woman’s head. (5)
- 4) Former province of South Africa so named because Vasco Da Gama landed there on Christmas Day 1497. (5)
- 5) Noisy insect whose name means tree cricket. (6)
- 6) Nickname of astronaut Edwin Aldrin. (4)
- 9) Ring near the bull in archery. (5)
- 10) 16thc. London prison whose name has come to mean any prison. (5)
- 12) Area of England lying between The Wash and the Thames estuary. (4-6)
- 13) Member of the indigenous people of New Zealand. (5)
- 14) The plant tequila is made from. (6)
- 18) Irregular complex climatic changes in the Equatorial Pacific region. (2-4)
- 19) Sweet Hungarian wine. (5)
- 20) Aromatic plant of the parsley family grown for its seeds. (5)
- 22) Speak with prolonged vowels. (5)
- 23) Scottish river famous for salmon fishing and whiskey. (4)

All puzzle answers on page 28

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