Marnhull Messenger

Original illustration by George Cox

www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk

March 2018 - Issue 82

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THE BLACKMORE VALE INN

Yes it's true! "Professionals" have been seen with clipboards outside the Blackmore Vale Inn after a January 22nd 2018 planning deadline. Were they Estate Agents looking to price the potential sale of the Blackmore Vale Inn? No - is the emphatic answer given by the owners, Big Old Wessex Ltd.

The Marnhull Messenger has been exclusively informed that it was a "bevy" of the North Dorset District Council Planning Department attempting to establish what to do next, as, at the time of going to press, no decision has been made on the planning application submitted in September last year. For further information Big Old Wessex Ltd suggests contacting NDDC Planning Department directly.

We understand that a decision on the planning application for the Blackmore Vale Inn, which was submitted last September has still not been forthcoming. It's our understanding NDDC's planning policy is to be committed to understanding and supporting the local community by weighing the social and economic benefits of any proposed development against other criteria when assessing properties within a Conservation Area. They should also take into account all views and reach a balanced final decision.

Ian Gall

Village Hall Bingo

Friday 23rd March

Doors open 7:00pm

For Eyes Down 7:30pm

Refreshments available.

For more information: 01258 820054

All proceeds towards the Village Hall Extension Fund

cooksgarage
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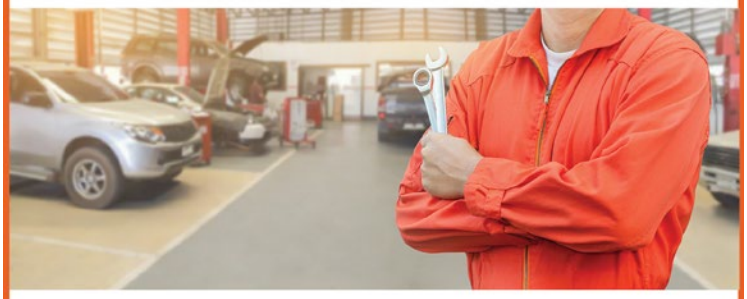

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Welcome to your Marnhull Messenger

Chris Ryu - Messenger Editor

Wow - it's been a busy month for our household again! The panto went great - thank you so much for a great turn-out, the cast really appreciate it. Everyone seemed to have a great time - I certainly enjoyed watching it (several times!). Well done to the cast.

We had a busy half-term at the centre with most sessions fully booked. Lots of the village children attended, so thanks as ever for your support.

Atom Club actually won an award this month so I'm off to meet Theo Paphitis to collect it. He's an idol of mine from his Dragon's Den days.

Welcome to the new moderators on the village Facebook group - they've all kindly offered to help police the spam attempts and approve all the new members.

Just a reminder of the deadline: 17th of each month (excluding July and December) as we had a number of late submissions this month. Echoing Ros and Tim's sentiments on page 5, I'd just like to remind you that we're all volunteers, so please be nice...

Deadline For Next Issue

MID-DAY 17th March

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

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Women's Institute

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Jennifer Spiers gave an enthralling account of Victorian Narrative Painting of which one by Richard Redgrave, is an example: the "disgraced" daughter thrown out into the winter snow with her "child of shame" (no mention of a man's part in her downfall!). Victorians, like the Georgian before them, loved a good morality picture – think of Hogarth's Rake's Progress. Some, like Turner's painting of "Slaves thrown overboard" were based on real, not uncommon, events - in a storm manacled slaves were jettisoned to save the ship (cf. Wikipedia: the owners claimed on the insurance – the furore eventually led to the Anti-Slavery laws).

Many of the artists of the 19th century painted narratives to highlight the poverty and dreadful conditions of the destitute or just-coping poor, heavily influenced by writers like Dickens and poets like Thomas Hood's Song of the Shirt. The pictures, like the novels, often appeared in serial form – one, two or three paintings charting the degradation of the unfortunate, through gambling, drink or just bad luck. The attention to detail was astonishing – and especially in the larger paintings. Jennifer gave a tour round many of them, by artists unknown to me but the pictures were not. In particular, she dissected Derby Day by Frith, from the courtesan in her carriage giving pennies to the beggars at her feet, the pickpockets in the crowd, the farm yokel about to lose his money to hucksters while his wife implores him to leave – all human life is there – except the actual race!

It was a fascinating talk, and may encourage further exploration of this genre. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Jennifer gives art history talks in North Dorset, info at Art Appreciation Tours website.

Next month is an open meeting (all welcome) on "Behind the Scenes at the National Trust".

SB

New Village Hall Website

MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL
Your Village ~ Your Hall

Aimed at promoting all the events, groups and activities that use the Village Hall, a new website has been created at "marnhullvillagehall.org.uk". It incorporates access to an online booking system that shows a diary of events and allows those wishing to use the hall to see when it is free and make an initial booking request. Full details and photos of the hall facilities are also on the website.

All organisations using the hall are invited to contribute information to promote their group on the website. We would also like any suitable photos of past events to put in the website gallery.

Please contact Dave Targett (Secretary to MVH) at secretary@marnhullvillagehall.org.uk

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 820853

Marnhull Fest 2018

Volunteers needed!

Could you spare some time to help set up for the Fest, or tidy up afterwards?

Please contact Lisa on 07590 806118.

Marnhull Easter Fair

Saturday 24th March 10am- 12pm
Marnhull Village Hall

If you would like to book a stall for £5 please contact Emma on 07540 580372.

All proceeds to Marnhull Players Pantomime Group

Annual Diary 2018

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

For Village Hall bookings please call 01258 820853

March

1st - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
2nd - Marnhull Lunch Club
3rd - Jumble sale @ 10:15 British Legion Club
5th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
5th - Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion Club
7th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
7th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
8th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
9th - Blackmore Vale Art Group - Workshop with Lindsey Cole "Textured Landscap" @ 10:30
10th - Mini-Marathon Organ Music St.Gregory's Church @ 11:00 St Gregory's
10th - Mini-marathon organ music St.Gregory's Church @ 12:00 St Gregory's
12th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
12th - Women's Institute - Behind the Scenes at the National Trust - Mr A. McElwee @ 19:30
13th - Garden Club "My Life in Watercress" - Watercress Company @ 19:30
14th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
14th - Mother's Union - Anne Powell on South Sudan @ 14:30
14th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
15th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
15th - Marnhull Yarners @ 14:00
16th - Marnhull POPPIn Cafe @ 10:00
19th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
19th - Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion Club
19th - Music Society - Presentation by Hilary Parker @ 19:15
21st - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
21st - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
22nd - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
23rd - Village Hall Bingo @ 19:00
24th - Easter Fair @ 10:00
24th - Marnhull Players Pantomime - Easter Fair @ 10:00
24th - Artsreach - Harbour Voices- Songs of the Sea @ 19:30
26th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
27th - Moviola - The Limehouse Golem @ 19:30
28th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
28th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
29th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30

April

2nd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
2nd - Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion Club
4th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
4th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
5th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
6th - Marnhull Lunch Club
9th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
9th - Women's Institute - Annual Meeting - Cheese and Wine @ 19:30
10th - Garden Club @ 19:30
11th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
11th - Mother's Union - Air Ambulance @ 14:30
11th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
12th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
13th - Blackmore Vale Art Group - Workshop with Carole Irving "Flowers with Palette Knife" @ 10:30
15th - M12K @ 10:30 St Gregory's
16th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
16th - Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion Club
16th - Music Society - Gents' Choice presented by David Woodhouse @ 19:15
18th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
18th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
19th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
19th - Marnhull Yarners @ 14:00
20th - Marnhull POPPIn Cafe @ 10:00
23rd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
24th - Moviola - Film Starts Don't Die in Liverpool @ 19:30
25th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
25th - Concert at St.Gregory's Church @ 19:30 St Gregory's
25th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
26th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
30th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
30th - Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion Club

May

2nd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
2nd - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
3rd - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
4th - Marnhull Lunch Club
7th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
9th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
9th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
10th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
11th - Blackmore Vale Art Group - Free Painting and Drawing Day @ 10:30
13th - Marnhull Players Pantomime - Tea Dance @ 14:00
14th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
14th - Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion Club
14th - Women's Institute- Resolutions and Beetle Drive @ 19:30
16th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
16th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
17th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
17th - Marnhull Yarners @ 14:00
18th - Marnhull POPPIn Cafe @ 10:00
21st - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
21st - Music Society - Presentation by Nick Lalor @ 19:15
23rd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
23rd - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
24th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
28th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
28th - Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion Club
30th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
30th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
31st - Baby and 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!

Delivering The Marnhull Messenger

As the Circulation Manager for the magazine I wish to thank all our deliverers for their efforts throughout yet another year. I think that some people can forget that they are all volunteers and have busy lives to lead like the rest of us. Some time ago a resident even asked a deliverer to ensure that the magazine landed right side up on the doormat!

At the end of each month, throughout the year, 36 Marnhull Messenger deliverers receive their bundles of magazines. Bundles vary in size according to the number of houses in their round, anything from 12 to 70 copies in each.

In all weathers, these volunteers ensure that a copy of the magazine ends up in the postbox/letterbox of every dwelling in the parish. Magazines are also left in shops and businesses around the village, as well as the churches, chapel, The Crown and school. The total number of magazines delivered each month is nearly 1,100

It is quite a commitment to be available each month for 10 months of the year. Sometimes there can be a problem at the printers, which can delay distribution of the magazines. Some deliverers are not as sprightly as others and can only deliver if the weather is reasonable.

If you have a complaint about the free delivery service you are receiving, please take it up with the Circulation Manager (Ros or Tim Eveleigh on 821049) NOT with the person who delivers your magazine. If someone is struggling, you could always volunteer to take over their round, but you need to be available at the end of every month (except July and December).

Ros and Tim Eveleigh

Royal British Legion

Invitations have gone out for the Poppy appeal thank you party on the 25th February. As this will not be published until after the event I can tell you that there are no surprises this year with the static box shield returning to its usual home in Marnhull Stores and the prize for best collector with an amazing total of £190 going back to Colin Hayward's mantelpiece.

Many others did well this year but I will give a mention to Flip Herring on her first outing around Todber and one other statistic, incredibly Derrick Pearce and Ellie and Mark Whyte both turned in £121.33, what a coincidence.

The bingo returns from its winter break on March 5th, Lyn works very hard on it and deserves all the support she can get. Everything she makes goes to the Poppy Appeal so come and have fun and support the cause. The same goes for the jumble sale on March 3rd, if you have anything bring it down on the day, doors open at 10.15am.

Tony Junge our Social Secretary is always happy to take your enquiries about hiring the Club for weddings, birthdays, christenings and all other family events. Give him a call on the number below and we will see what we can do for you.

We are always on the lookout for younger people to come onto the Committee as most of us are getting a bit long in the tooth now. If you think you would like to help please give me a call or E-mail as fresh blood is what we need if we are to keep going long term.

There has been a Legion presence in the village since 1921 and we would love to be here to celebrate our centenary in 2021. So please give it some thought.

We have a full programme of entertainment most Saturdays so feel free to come down, non-members pay a modest £2

Short report this month hopefully more to say in April.

Branch business contact Jack Whitehead on 01258 820800 or email whiteheadjack51@gmail.com

Bye Bye Butcher

We would like to say a big thankyou to all who arranged and attended our party in the village hall. Many thanks for all the cards and generosity shown to us. Special thanks to Linda and her team for organising it all.

After 20 years as the village Butcher it was time for a fresh challenge. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the years both staff and customers.

Adrian and Dawn

Farewell to Adrian Curtis Butcher's Shop

Well what a great party all you folk in Marnhull provided for Adrian and his lovely wife Dawn! So much fabulous food and drink to share - many thanks to the Chairman of our Parish Council - Trevor Vaughan - who gave a wonderful version of "This is your Life" and presented Adrian with a letter of appreciation for his service to the community over a period of many years.

A collection had been arranged at Robin Hill Stores which achieved a sum of £350 which has since been passed on to Adrian in the form of a B&Q gift voucher, at Adrian's request. Many other people gave cards and gifts and I am sure that we can all feel pretty confident that Adrian and Dawn were left in no doubt as to just how much we have all appreciated them over the years. We will miss them for sure. Thank you to everyone who helped Adrian say goodbye to Marnhull - we wish them both all the very best.

PS. I still have a small collection of left over plates, a cake server and a wine cooler - so if you are missing any items please give me a call!

Linda 01258 820131

Marnhull Tennis Club

Marnhull is fortunate to have two well maintained hard courts, providing lots of opportunities for players of all standards to make friends, have fun and get fresh air and exercise all year round.

The new season starts in April and as always we welcome new members.

We have “low-key” club tournaments at the beginning and end of each season, 2 club sessions a week, run 2 mixed teams in the local league, organise club championships and as we are LTA affiliated, have access to Wimbledon tickets.

Once a month the Friday morning session coincides with the Pop-in-Café making it even more popular!

We have weekly tennis coaching for children and teenagers during the summer term and have a coach who will also provide individual or group coaching for adults.

Membership forms will be available from Cook’s Garage and Robin Hill Stores from the beginning of April.

Please feel free to contact Helen Butler (Chairman) on 821767 for further information.

BT Scam Caller

Police would like to make you aware of the following scam which has occurred in the area. Report of someone claiming to be from BT indicating they were due a refund and asking for bank details so the refund could be processed.

Should anyone receive similar contact hang up and please report this to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or online at www.actionfraud.police.uk

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From The Surgeries

Do you:

- Help someone with their medication?
- Have to ring someone up several times a day to check they are okay?
- Need to help someone choose the right clothes to wear?
- Help someone with their day to day finances

If you have answered yes to any of the above questions, what would happen if you were to go away for a few days; what would the person you look after do?

The Sturminster Newton Medical Centre and Stour Connect have joined together to help you to help support the family or friend for whom you care.

Every second Wednesday of the month we will be at Stour Connect, Stour View Close, from between 10.30am and 12pm to offer you a free health check and to give free information and advice about anything you might need help with. No appointment is needed and if you need to you can bring the person whom you support with you as there is a sitting service. You will receive a warm welcome and there will be refreshments too.

We look forward to seeing you. Further information on 01258 472957.

Practice Website

If you are a registered patient with The Blackmore Vale Practice it has an excellent website at http://www.blackmorevalesurgery.co.uk. It can help you with a variety of useful functions like appointment booking, medication re-ordering, and general medical information, including access to the main NHS website.

The Sturminster Learning Centre (based at the Exchange) in conjunction with the Blackmore Vale Practice is investigating the feasibility of education sessions to help anyone use the website's facilities.

Online is an increasingly useful and easy way to connect with healthcare advice and knowledge so, if you would like to learn the basics of what you can do, even if you don't have a computer, a tablet or a smartphone: please call Vicky Eaton on 01258 474500 or if you already use email the contact is Vicky.eaton@blackmorevale.nhs.uk. We'll try to arrange a place for you at a group session, the dates of which are being finalised.

Blackmore Vale Art Group

We are holding a coffee morning and sale of art equipment on Saturday 21st April in the Village Hall. Come along and meet some of the members; find out more about our sociable group which caters to artists of every standard from experienced to absolute beginner. If you have the urge to have a go at painting or drawing, this is a good place to start.

Yvonne

News from the Nick.

Combating crime in your neighbourhood

PC 2146 Phil Sugrue

07500 816 258

I apologise that there has not been any 'News from the Nick' since the November issue. Unfortunately I fractured my ankle in December and have only just returned to work albeit office bound for the time being!

Fortunately there is very little to report over the last 3 months as only one crime was reported this being the theft of an immersion heater from a driveway. In the Love Lane area of the village 2 suspicious incidents were reported where rope ties had been cut from a gate and in another, a gate was removed from its hinges leaving the fields insecure for livestock.

Spring is around the corner and hopefully some warmer weather is on its way. Please be wary of COLD CALLERS offering their services at your door - these include tarmaccers, garden services, building work, high pressure washing etc. Cold callers will charge you large amounts of cash for substandard work. If you require these services please do your research in advance and ask friends/neighbours for recommendations. If you would like a 'WE DO NOT BUY FROM DOORSTEP SELLERS' sticker for your door contact a member of you NPT.

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

Unfortunately the local NPT surgeries that are usually held on the 1st Thursday of the month will not be taking place for the next month or so as. 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 Rural NPT

Marnhull Baby & Toddlers

We have had a lot of fun at baby and toddler's over the last few weeks enjoying all the toys, doing sponge paintings and playing with playdough. We didn't forget the mums either as we had the lovely Diana come with her Flamingo cards on 1st February.

With Valentines coming up which was in our week off we celebrated it a bit early on 8th February by decorating some foam hearts magnet frames, these are great as they are so easy for the children to do as no glue is needed. You just peel the back off which shape you want and stick it on. The children really loved doing these.

Our next half term is an exciting one as we have world book day on 1st March which we will be dressing up as our favourite book characters and we have Gill coming with Usborne books. So we have dressing up and books what more could you want.

Then on 29th March we have our Easter party, we will be playing games, going on an Easter egg hunt, doing some Easter crafts and having a bit of a dance.

We are looking forward to an exciting half term.

Emma and Michelle

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Marnhull Men's Shed Is On The Way!

Following a successful meeting in the Village Hall, a steering committee has been formed to make a Men's Shed a reality for the village, but high on their list of priorities is somewhere to base the Shed. If you know of premises or outbuilding that might be suitable for a workshop or storage, then let us know.

At the meeting sponsored by Poisdale Ltd of Hinton St Mary and Dike & Sons of Stalbridge, Patrick Abrahams of Frome Men's Shed shared his vision of these community spaces where people can come together to take part in practical skills and activities. Men's Sheds are run by their members and provide opportunities for people to share knowledge, form friendships and talk & socialise with other men.

Patrick explained the range of possible activities, from joinery and furniture renovation, to metal work and mechanics, to gardening, model making and photography. The list is endless, but the important thing is that each Men's Shed decides what it wants to do.

Until the steering group is up and running, the contact for offers of help, premises, or further information is Rosie.Gall@helpandcare.org.uk Tel 01258 820484

The New Marnhull Players Pantomime Group

The 2018 pantomime 'Cinder's' was a great success. We would like to thank everyone who bought a ticket and came and watched, it was fantastic to see so many of you come to support us. We would also like to thank everyone who helped in the kitchen, you did an amazing job and we are very grateful for you giving up your time to help us.

We have had some great feedback and we will be back next year, there are all ready a few plans in place.

In the meantime we have our Easter Fair on the 24th March at Marnhull Village hall 10am till 12pm, we have stalls from Scentsy, Body shop, Atom Club, Flamingo cards and lots more. If anyone would like a stall for £5 please call Emma on 07540 580372 or email wifeyryu@googlemail.com

Then 13th May we have our Tea Dance at the village hall 2pm till 5pm.

Then it's a bit of a way yet but 1st December will be our Christmas Ball.

If anyone would like to join us in our pantomime production next year please contact us on marnhullplayers@gmail.com or contact Emma using contact details above.

We hope you enjoyed watching as much as we enjoyed performing it.

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FUTURE EVENTS

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Sat 3rd March - Mike Wroth Mon 5th March - Bingo 7pm Sat 10th March - Cat and Mouse
Sat 17th March - Dale Fender Band Mon 19th March - Bingo 7pm
Sat 24th March - Reunion Sat 31st March - Nitelite

Entry free to members others £2 on entertainment evenings

The CLUB may be booked for private functions at reasonable rates.
To arrange viewing, check availability, discuss your requirements or apply for membership contact Tony on 820397 or E-mail whiteheadjack51@gmail.com

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3rd Friday of each month

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Contact Linda 01258 820131

The Marnhull POPPin Café is a non-profit making community project.

Dorset Feminist Book Club

I'm writing to let you know about a new book club based in Gillingham, the Dorset Feminist Book Club. We had our first meeting on Wednesday 17th Jan, to discuss "Bad Feminist" by Roxane Gay. This is a collection of essays that explore being a feminist whilst also enjoying things which may be at odds with feminist principles, as well as racial issues and gender stereotypes in popular culture. Our club's discussion was lively and engaging, and drew upon a huge range of experiences brought by our members in relation to the book's content. Many thanks to Riversmeet Leisure Centre in Gillingham for allowing us to hold the event in their café, and special appreciation also goes to Sophia Ralph for support in organising the meeting.

It was fantastic to bring together members of the Dorset community and learn from each other's varied backgrounds and perspectives. I would like to invite you to join in if you're interested in talking about feminism and gender issues with us. You don't have to be a woman or identify as a feminist to participate – all are welcome. The club plans to meet every other month and we would love to see you at our next meeting! We will be discussing "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. This is a dystopian novel about the treatment of women under a dictatorship, and has recently been adapted into a hit TV series.

The next meeting will take place on 19th March at 7.30pm, in the café at Gillingham's Riversmeet Leisure Centre. For more information, updates, or to RSVP, please email Laura Hillier via dorsetfeminists@gmail.com . Alternatively, search for "Dorset Feminist Book Club" on Facebook to find our page. Hope to see you there!

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Tickets: Under 18s £6 Adults £8 Family £24
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Victorian London is gripped with fear as a serial killer is on the loose and leaving cryptic messages written in the blood of his victims. With few leads and increasing public pressure, Scotland Yard assigns the case to Inspector Kildare, a seasoned detective who has a sneaking suspicion that he's being set up to fail. Faced with a long list of suspects, Kildare must rely on help from a witness to stop the murders and bring the maniac to justice.

In Marnhull Village Hall
Tuesday 27th March at 7.30pm
Doors and licensed bar open 7.00 pm

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Parish Mutterings

The top topics being discussed this month:

Footpaths, gates, dog walkers and safe guarding animals
Housing Development and Neighbourhood Plan
Increase in Precept
Litter pick
Grass Cutting St Gregory's Churchyard
Trees in the Recreation Ground and Cemetery
Adoption of telephone box's
Speeding
Dog fouling campaign
'BAG IT AND BIN IT.....MOST PEOPLE DO'

All of the above are currently being dealt with by your Parish Council If you would like to learn more or wish to comment please call 821231 or email mpcclerk@sallyupshall.f2s.com

Marnhull Music Society

John Dowsett took us through his (musical) life, from his early childhood when the wireless was always on, through his older brother's tastes and then discovery of rock'n'roll and the Beatles, his sister's more classical preferences and thence to developing his own eclectic favourites.

We started with Tchaikovsky's Piano no: 1, then the Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves and Edith Piaf and the Sabre Dance – pretty varied. This was followed by Orpheus in the Underworld, Light Cavalry Overture and the first half ended with some wonderful African drumming from Ipi Tombi.

The second half included pieces new to me – Henjal by Tischsnko and Il Silencio. Then a version of Hoffnung's The Sick Note (The bricklayer's lament) which had us all laughing. Then Ryan's Daughter, Carnival of Venice and the Auctioneer, the theme from Chariots of Fire and wonderful singing from the Don Cossack Choir. It ended with Orange Blossom Special from the James Last Orchestra. An interesting evening which was much enjoyed. SB

Mini-Marathon at St.Gregory's Church

The 2018 series of concerts in St.Gregory's Church begins with a mini-marathon! Stephen Binnington will be performing the complete organ works by William Croft (1678-1727) in two programmes on Saturday 10th March from 11.00-11.35 and 12 noon – 12.30. The pieces are short, varied and characterful. As a complete contrast, the programme will end with Louis Vierne's magnificent tour de force, Carillon de Westminster.

All proceeds will go towards church funds and the Alan Spedding Memorial Trust set up to help young organ students in financial need to attend courses by the nationally recognised body, 'Oundle for Organists'. Please support this unique and special event if you possible can.

Atom Club - Dorset Science & Tech Centre

Theo Paphitis Award Winners

Dragon's Den star and global entrepeneur Theo selected us for a Small Business Sunday award this month, so I'm off to meet him at a large conference he's laid on in Birmingham. Should have a nice picture for next month! The award also came with a retweet to his half a million Twitter followers, spreading awareness across the country of our little rural project!

Half term success

We had a busy half-term of sessions at the centre, ranging from slime making to robot designing. To top it off, NASA kindly gave us some access codes for a space station camera, so we had over 30 people aged 4 - 40(+) carefully putting in co-ordinates of where they would like the camera to aim during the mission. We get the images this week, so expect to see some soon.

March Sessions

We're already planning our next sessions for the Easter holidays. Due to popular demand, there'll be a slime making one and a robot building session. We're also planning an egg science demo and an extended forensic science session.

Warehouse Progress

The planetarium dome is now in the roof and partially covered, we're out of funds at the moment, but are hoping to finish it in March. We've managed to source a few new inspirational items for decoration, so they're going up at the moment. It's looking very posible that the warehouse will be open in the next month!

Sponsors Needed

We're so close to having a finished centre, but desperately need a few more sponsors (opportunities from £30). If you know any businesses that might be willing to help, please let them know. Sponsorship opportunities are listed on the website.

Dorset Robot Championships

The arena is now built and is being painted ready for our first robot battle events. We're currently building our own robots to compete in a World Series event in March. More details on the championship can be found on our dedicated website: **www.dorsetrobots.co.uk**

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MID-DAY 17th March

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Memories of a Bygone Era

Mr John Cowley who grew up in Walnut Tree Cottage, Church Hill and Mrs Dora Stockley who grew up in Pilwell in the shop which is now the house next to Chapel Cottage have been sharing their memories of some aspects of life in Marnhull during the 30's and 40's. The Marnhull Book is sketchy concerning these years so does anyone possess further information to add to John and Dora's reminiscences?

John's recollections of Marnhull Methodist Church 1930 -1940 include; 'In 1934 a new floor was fitted in the chapel due, it was said, to the presence of floodwater to which Pilwell was prone. About the same time mains water and electricity were installed in Marnhull thus the well in the outbuildings became redundant. The whole of the premises were wired up by my Uncle John Wilkins and I was entranced to see the opaque glass bulbs being fitted through the church. This meant that the old oil lamps had no longer to be trimmed, cleaned and filled with paraffin "Hurrah"'.

Dora remembers growing up in the 40's with 'lovely oil lamps. A large beautiful brass one in the centre of our kitchen table caused us to gather round with reading books and to write letters. We made rag rugs out of old coats, skirts etc cut into triangles and sewn into old hessian sacks. There was no running water but a large well outside the backdoor from which Mum was an expert at drawing water up with a galvanised bucket. Saturday night was bath night and she would light a fire under the boiler in the back kitchen and fill the bath which was also the kitchen table with a wooden slab over the bath'. John Cowley also remembers drawing water from the well at Walnut Tree Cottage.

During this pre-war period John mentions four leading men in the chapel. Mr Harold Stoked a man gifted with a glorious bass voice, Mr Frank Baker, local preacher, Mr Hedley Wiles, Sunday School Superintendent and Mr Howard Plowman the organist and Dora's grandfather. His shop in Pilwell sold practically everything, groceries, drapery, shoes, toys at Christmas and paraffin. The outbreak of war in 1939 changed things enormously with rationing, shortages of all kinds, gasmasks and large numbers of evacuees swelling the Sunday School numbers to about 60. Mrs Nettie Wilkins took two girls Janet and Francis Hartburne and John's family had an Austrian Jewish mother and daughter in the annexe to Walnut Tree Cottage.

Dora remembers these days with pleasure with more friends despite the war. Mr Wiles who was ARP Warden besides Sunday School Superintendent went round the village with a whistle when a raid threatened and neighbours and friends descended then on Dora's family's shelter sometimes in the middle of the night where they stayed until they heard the all clear whistle and emerged for a cup of tea. The evacuees obviously blended in well and there was great sadness and tears when the children returned to London. One evacuee Joan Knight, lived with a Mrs Groves in Ham Lane and she still returns to the village each year and would like to see anyone who remembers her.

A footnote about Sunday School Outings from Dora. 'They took place at Cut Mill, Hinton St. Mary. All 60 children and some adults laden with picnics and swim stuff, walked through the fields to the river and spent a happy day there swimming with some boats going to Kings Mill equipped with tin cans to bail out as they went along as quite a few had a leak. Our mums never seemed to worry about us because there were some strong swimmers.'

John Cowley's memories of Marnhull in wartime.
The out break of war in 1939 brought large numbers of evacuees to Marnhull and whereas before the Sunday school was dominated by the families of the Kendalls, Plowmans, Wilkins and Cowleys there was a sudden influx of 'strange children'. The cockney voices differed so much from the soft Dorset tones. However, it brought new life to the Sunday School and it was then led by Mr Wiles who along with his family, came from Sussex I believe.

It was during this time that Mr Haig Roscoe took on the thankless task of billeting officer and what a job! The problems were manifold as the army arrived as well. First came the Kings Royal Life Brigade with their HQ at Orchard House. The village had to become used to heavy traffic trundling through and to tracked vehicles.

One night in 1940 the alarm was raised and for the first and last time I heard bugles being sounded with intent and shouting and uproar to call all the troops out. By 7am the KRR's as they were known, had left the parish to go to France to protect the troops escaping from Dunkirk. Some, we were eventually told, perished and others were captured by the Germans. One evening standing outside the chapel after the service in the company of Mr Stokes, we listened to the thump of German bombers heading, we decided, to Bristol. A red glow then lightened up the sky in the direction of Bristol. Later many incendiaries fell over the village.

The KRR's were followed by a contingent of the Northumberland Fusiliers again with their HQ at Orchard House. Quite a large number were non-conformists. (One personal recollection was of a little concert held in the schoolroom and a private from the regiment standing in the pulpit – probably the very old Weslyan one, singing the hymn 'Behold the mountains of the Lord' to the tune 'Glasgow'. He had a most beautiful tenor voice. I did wonder if he had been a professional. This hymn has remained one of my favourites to this day).

Eventually the Fusiliers moved out and their place was taken by the American Army, a number of who were non-conformists.

I believe by this time the schoolroom had become a nursery for very young children and continued to the end of the war.

Do any present villagers have records of their or their family's stories from this time? In particular there are hardly any records of the Americans here. Did any member your family become a GI bride? Did they remember the dances in the Quaker Building – now called the Old Meeting House?

I would be very grateful for any input or photographs to perhaps put a pamphlet together on the village at that time. Please contact Barbara Russell 820371.

MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 23RD MARCH
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Thoughts from the Methodist Minister...

Are you a foodie? In a sense that question is a no-brainer. We all need food to survive, so must we not all be interested in procuring it, preparing it, and eating it? But the definition of 'foodie', a word which seems to have been coined in the 1980's, is: a person who has an ardent or refined interest in food.

A foodie seeks new food experiences as a hobby, rather than simply eating out of convenience or hunger. The vast number of TV programmes and magazine articles about food encourage us all to make the 'food experience' at least a hobby, if not a constant fixation!

And the problems of obesity in our part of the world are, sadly, more likely to make us concerned about the amount and quality of the food available than the age-old problem of people in other parts of the world having insufficient food to sustain themselves and their families. It was Mahatma Gandhi who first said: 'Live simply so that others may simply live' – and that must surely apply to eating above everything else.

Christians have for many centuries kept a period of fasting in the six weeks running up to Easter. Muslims too observe a month of fasting (Ramadan), which this year will take place during May/June.

Other religions too practice fasting. In the past, and for some still today, such fasts had strict rules attached to them. However, the notion of living more simply, (and more reflectively) would surely be good for all of us – foodies and others – in a world of extremes of consumption and want.

Food – even for those who have precious little of it – is not just for eating it is also for sharing. It is at the heart of much social concourse. In February's Messenger there was news of the splendid village Lunch Club; the POPPin Café; a Mothers' Union 'splendid afternoon tea'; the Village Hall Committee's big breakfast; Churches Together Friday lunches during Lent and I may have missed others.

The point of all these was not simply the food, but the sharing in conversation and concern for one another which makes us more 'alive', more truly human.

It is not therefore surprising that when Jesus shared a special meal with his friends. In an upper room on the Thursday before Good Friday, as the powers of darkness gathered around them, he chose to assure them of his continuing presence with them, and with all who would follow them, through the medium of a meal.

No lavish food, but simple bread and wine, which would be transformed into the Eucharistic (Thanksgiving) Feast where they would share with one another and with him.

Now that kind of food is not for those who 'seek new food experiences as a hobby', but for the 'foodie' who want a taste of what is life-sustaining and life-enhancing – and available to all.

Tony Wilds

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

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 March 2018

Morning Prayer is held daily from Tuesday to Friday at 8.00 in the Hussey Chapel

Sunday 4th - Third Sunday of Lent
08.00 – Holy Communion [said]
10.00 – Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 7th
09.00 - Children's Service led by St Gregory's Primary School
11.00 Holy Communion

Sunday 11th - Mothering Sunday
08.00 – Holy Communion [said]
9.30 – Bacon bap breakfast, followed by…
10.15 Mothering Sunday Family Service

Wednesday 14th
09.00 - Children's Service led by St Gregory's Primary School

Sunday 18th - Fifth Sunday of Lent: Passiontide
08.00 – Holy Communion [said]
10.00 – Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 21st
09.00 - Children's Service led by St Gregory's Primary School

Sunday 25th - Palm Sunday
08.00 – Holy Communion [said]
10.00 – Parish Eucharist

The Great Triduum
Thursday 29th March: Maundy Thursday
Liturgy and the Watch - 7.00 pm

Friday 30th March - Good Friday
1.00 pm - Meditation
2.00 pm - Liturgy for Good Friday

Saturday 31st March Holy Saturday
The Easter Liturgy & the Lighting of the New Fire @ 8.00pm

Sunday 1st April - Easter Sunday, Resurrection of the Lord
08.00 – Holy Communion [said]
10.00 – Parish Eucharist

www.stgregorysmarnhull.org.uk

From the registers at St Gregory's:

Death/Funeral:

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of William Townsend of Marnhull, whose funeral was held at on 24th of January 2018. May he rest in peace.

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Ken Browne of Marnhull, whose funeral was held at on 5th of February 2018. May he rest in peace.

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Alison Mash of Marnhull, whose funeral was held at on 9th of February 2018. May she rest in peace.

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)

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

29 March - Maundy Thursday
Our Lady's - 6pm – Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper
30 March - Good Friday (Day of Fast and Abstinence)
Our Lady's - 11am – Stations of the Cross
3pm – Celebration of The Lord's Passion
31 March - Holy Saturday
St Benedict's - 11am – Blessing of the Easter food
Our Lady's - 8.30pm – The Easter Vigil
1 April - Easter Sunday
Our Lady's – 9.30am – Mass
St Benedict's - 11am – Mass
Our Lady's – 6pm – Mass

Feast Days in March

1 – Saint David, Bishop, Patron of Wales (Feast)
St David (+c.600) was born in south Wales. We know little of his life. Tradition says he founded a monastery at Mynyw (Menevia) and, according to legend, was consecrated bishop in Jerusalem.

17 – Saint Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland (Feast)
St Patrick (385-461) was born into a Christian Romano-British family. His first encounter with Ireland was as a slave after being captured by raiders at the age of sixteen. He escaped and studied in Gaul where he was ordained a priest. Around 432 he returned to Ireland as a missionary bishop and succeeded in consolidating the faith in large parts of the country.

19 – St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)
Not a single word of his is recorded in Sacred Scripture and yet St Joseph is one of the greatest and most popular saints, largely because of his humility and closeness to Our Lord. He died before the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and, since he probably died in the presence of Jesus and Mary, is venerated as the patron of a good death. He is patron of the Universal Church, Canada, carpenters and manual workers.

Parish People

The funeral of Helen Green took place at St Benedict's on Friday 19 January. RiP

The Methodist Church

Sunday Service.

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

This year Easter is quite early falling on 1st April so, by the time you read this, we shall be in the period of Lent which begins six weeks earlier on Ash Wednesday, this year 14th February. Lent remembers the period that Jesus Christ spent in the desert preparing to begin the three years of His mission on earth. It is traditionally a period of prayer and reflection on Christianity and its relevance to everyday life. We are pleased to again be hosting a series of half hour reflections in church on each Friday in Lent at noon organised by Churches Together in Marnhull and led by members of all three churches. You are all invited to join us on Fridays the 9th, 16th and 23rd March in the church at noon and for a very simple lunch in the church hall afterwards. Donations given during the lunch will be sent to organisations working to alleviate the sufferings of the Rohingya refugees trapped in camps in Bangladesh.

The fourth Sunday in Lent, 11th March this year, is Mothering Sunday. This began as a day when servants and apprentices, who may have been living away from home, were given time off to visit their Mother Church, where they had been baptised. It has become a day to recognise the importance of mothers and motherhood throughout the world. All ladies of all ages are particularly invited to join us in our service on that day.

For your diary. On 18th May at 7:00pm in the church hall we shall be holding a quiz evening for teams of four. The cost is six pounds per person to include a light supper. Questions will cover general knowledge and be suitable for all ages and interests so please join us for a light-hearted and fun evening. Further details in next month's Messenger.

Hire the Hall

Our church hall is a good place to hire for family parties and social or other events for individuals, clubs, societies, and classes. Rates are reasonable and bookings can be made by contacting Mrs. Marlene Plowman on 01258 820869.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Our Lady's RC Church in Marnhull and St Benedict's RC Church in Gillingham are hosting this years' Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 2 March. This year's theme is: "All God's Creation is Very Good", and is put together by the host country of Suriname in South America. Prayers at Our Lady's begin at 10.30 and those at St Benedict's at 2.30pm. Please come along and join us – all welcome!

Marnhull's Art for Everyone Group

Marnhull's Art for Everyone group is celebrating another fantastic year of drawing and painting with a Spring exhibition in the village hall.

TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2018
7-30 TO 9PM
MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL
FREE ADMISSION

Regular visitors will notice we are holding our annual show of work a term earlier than usual after soaring temperatures last June were not helpful for the volunteers setting up or the chocolate rocky road!

On display will be a selection of our best artworks from the last year for just one exclusive evening. So don't miss out, come along and admire the talent of our amazing local artists.

We have tackled some quite challenging techniques during the past year and are always striving to improve our expertise and explore new subjects.

Look out for some of the following projects.

"Laundry day" depicting a colourful Italian street scene, complete with washing drying on the line. We had lots of fun cutting, sticking and printing with this multi layered, mixed media collage project.

"K2 – approaching the summit" a technically challenging stark watercolour painting featuring just cool shades of blue to capture the icy cold landscape. An exercise in traditional watercolour techniques and precision painting, can you spot the tiny mountaineers?

You won't have any trouble spotting a flock of rainbow hued birds, the Sub South African Lilac Breasted Roller, yes they really are all those colours! Watercolour pencil was our choice of media to depict the colour and detail in these beautiful bright birds.

Finally there has just been a large exhibition at Tate Modern London of the distinctive work of the Italian Artist Amedeo Modigliani 1884 -1920. Lots of us were planning to visit so we thought we would have a go at painting portraits in the Modigliani style, you will see our efforts were pretty impressive. However I must stress we have nothing to do with the alleged Modigliani fakes in the news, honest!

So put the date in your diary, come along and join us, for a chat, a drink, a few delicious nibbles and as always have some fun voting for your favourite painting.

We will look forward to seeing you there.

Art for Everyone meets in the village hall on Tuesdays. Booked places only.

Deborah Chisman, Tutor.
deb_chisman@hotmail.com 01258 820349

Churches Together

Lent, the six week period of prayer and reflection leading up to Easter, began on Ash Wednesday (14th February). Churches Together are continuing the tradition of recent years with a half hour reflection in the Methodist Church beginning at noon on each Friday in Lent to which everyone is welcome. These will be led by members from each of the three churches in turn. We invite you to join us on **Fridays 9th, 16th and 23rd of March.** After the reflection, a very simple lunch will be served in the Methodist hall. Donations given during the lunch will be sent to organisations working to alleviate the sufferings of the Rohingya refugees trapped in camps in Bangladesh.

Women's World Day of Prayer. 2nd March. This is an annual, worldwide ecumenical day of informed prayer and prayerful action highlighting the work, roll and situation of women and children. Each year, a different country takes a particular theme and suggests ideas for services and events. This year the theme is "All God's Creation is Very Good" and has been developed by Suriname. In Marnhull, the three churches take it in turn to hold a service. This year, Our Lady's church will hold a special service on Friday 2nd March at 10:30 am and everyone is welcome to this exciting event. Further details may be found in their article in this edition.

World Peace Prayers

Churches Together in Marnhull continue to pray for world peace. Everyone is welcome to join us for thirty minutes of quiet contemplation focussed on world events. The next gatherings will take place at midday on Friday, as follows:

9 Mar - Methodist Church - Canon Tony Wilds (Lent Reflection)
13 Apr - Our Lady's Church - Rev Fr Martin Budge
11 May - Methodist Church - Rev. Paul Arnold
8 Jun - Saint Gregory's Church - Canon Tony Wilds

Religious Festivals during March

1 March – Saint David's Day - Anniversary of the death of Saint David, patron saint of Wales in the 6th Century.

1 March – Purim. A Jewish festival recalling the saving of the Jewish community of Persia through the actions of a young Jewish woman, which is retold in the Book of Esther

11 March - Mothering Sunday – Christian churches celebrate mothers and motherhood.

17 March - Saint Patrick's Day – Celebrating the life of the patron saint of Ireland.

25 March – Palm Sunday – Christians remember the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week leading up to Good Friday (30 March) and Easter (1 April)

31 March – Passover – The important Jewish festival remembering the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt as told in the Book of Exodus.

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

As half term approaches everyone has been having a great time with this terms topic 'Around the World in 80 Days'. Some wonderful artwork has gone on display throughout the school.

Reception children have painted some fabulous pictures of the arctic with penguins and polar bears. Year 2 children in Owls class children have designed some fantastic colourful posters to encourage visitors to Malawi.

Children in Squirrels class have completed a range of wonderful art pieces inspired by different countries and cultures. They have made origami animals, completed aboriginal handprints and most recently they enjoyed making a clay elephant and painting it in an aboriginal design. Children in Badgers class are continuing to follow Phileas Fog around the world and are now looking at Australian culture.

Rabbits class have been very creative in making a life size London bus for their role play area and produced a collage balloon of where they would love to travel to. They have also been finding out about family travels during show and tell with each child sharing where they and family members have travelled. They are looking forward to going on a trip to Shillingstone Railway after half term and exploring more about travel in the past.

All of the classes have been learning a range of poems linked to the topic. One of the favourites has been 'If I had wings'. They wrote their own versions and came up with lots of exciting ideas of some of the things they would do if they had wings and could fly anywhere.

Another popular poem was 'The Owl and the Pussycat' and once again children wrote their own versions and showed wonderful imagination with poems on 'The cheetah and the Humming Bird' and 'The Lion and the colossal Squid'. Our Year 1 children have enjoyed performing, guessing and creating their own riddle for a competition organised by Young Writers.

Class mascots have been busy travelling around the world with Hedgehogs mascot clocking up the air miles having gone to Turkey, New Zealand, Australia and Austria, and in the next two weeks will be going to France, Switzerland and Spain. Owls mascot has also been to Turkey and New Zealand and will shortly be flying to Spain.

In our After School Club children have had great fun thinking about 'Flight' by decorating hot air balloons and making paper planes which they then tested. They have also been celebrating Chinese New Year by making a very colourful dragon and tasting Chinese food.

Although Shrove Tuesday is in half term this did not stop children in Breakfast Club having a surprise breakfast just before half term when they cooked and enjoyed pancakes with a variety of fillings.

Our football team has been in action this month with matches against St Mary's and Motcombe narrowly losing both by 4-3 and 1-0. Our high fives team had their first match against Motcombe. For many of them it was their first experience of playing High Fives and an enjoyable one. During the next half term lots of our children will be involved in sport festivals and tournaments.

You may have seen children with weird and wonderful hair styles coming to school on the last day of this half term as we had a 'Crazy Hair Day' and raised £108.75.

Best wishes from everyone at St Gregory's

Birds Of Prey Experience

MERE DOWN FALCONARY

Saturday March 17th in Child Okeford Village Hall 2.30 p.m.

£6 adults. 7 to 16 £4. At the door £7.50.

Tickets on sale at The Cross Stores or phone Alan on 01258 860118

St. Mary's Catholic School

This month in St Mary's Forest School we have been learning about how we can love our environment. We've been particularly thinking about the importance of bees and how we can look after them. We learnt that bees find nectar using their sense of smell and direct other bees to the best pollen by doing a bottom waggling dance which we had a go at doing! We then made our own bees by sawing wood cookies and decorating them.

Our Year 3/4 children are getting better at playing the Ukulele by the day! They have learnt many of the chords and have also composed their own song about Phileas Fogg!

On Thursday 1st February, our football team played a match against St Gregory's Primary School, Marnhull. The match was really hard fought, with both teams attacking and defending well. The score line kept on alternating between each team scoring and up until the final five minutes when Alex Chambers scored the winning goal to make the final score 4:3 to St Mary's. Both teams showed great skill and fantastic sportsmanship!

Year 5/6 have been immersed in reading Ice Trap, a novel that follows the story of Ernest Shackleton and his expedition to Antarctica. We were all very excited to discover that one of our year 4 pupils is actually related to the famous explorer! What a small world we live in!

St Mary's is taking part in the Duracell Big Battery Hunt and are now a battery recycling point. We will take any domestic batteries and ensure they are recycled appropriately. Please feel free to pop down and drop any old batteries into the box in our foyer.

Our new Parent and Toddler group, Mini Explorers, starts on February 20th. The group will be led by Mrs Ellie Myatt, our EYFS teacher and will be an opportunity for parents to meet together, working with their children on a range of activities both inside and out. The sessions will run on a Tuesday morning from 9:30am – 11:00am and will be free! The group will be open to all and we hope you can join us. For more information, please contact the school office on 01258 820417 or office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk.

St. Mary's Explorers

An exciting preschool led by a fully qualified teacher

Explorer's have continued to travel around the world this term. We visited Japan with a little girl named 'Aoki', the children found out all about the beautiful blossom trees, the volcanoes and the traditional clothing. They learnt the Japanese greeting 'Konnichiwa'!

This gorgeous story led onto some great artwork as all the children made their own cherry blossom tree. They also explored explosions by mixing bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. This was a great opportunity to explore vocabulary; the children used words like 'fizzy', 'bubbly' and 'popping' to describe what they saw. We extended their vocabulary by talking about liquids and gases.

The children enjoyed participating in the schools e-safety day. We were really pleased to hear how sensible parents are with children's access to the internet. The children heard the story of 'Smartie' the penguin and they helped him to make good decisions when playing games on his tablet. The children now know the importance of seeking parent's help with online problems.

We were lucky enough to have a visit from one of our parent's Jame's Kershaw this week who came to talk to us all about star gazing. He told us all about his telescope which he has had since he was 14. He also talked to the children all about the stars and planets. The children loved listening to a visitor, they were a really polite audience and learnt a lot. We are very grateful that James took some time out to come and share his hobby with the children.

The children at Explorer's are always engaging in independent roleplay they have really enjoyed the new addition to our role play area various old telephones. Some of them are so old that the children weren't sure how to use them!

St Mary's Explorers is open from 8:45am – 3:15pm every week day during term time and spaces are available for children aged 3 years +, with wrap around care from 8am – 6pm on request. The unit allows preschool and Reception children to work together on lots of key areas of learning, something that OfSTED agree allows younger children to make greater progress. If you would like to have a look around, or come and stay for a taster session, please call 01258 820417 to make an appointment. (Sessions: £4 per hour/£24 for full day, Early Education Funding vouchers accepted and 30hrs funding available)

Jungle Hut

What a busy half term we've had already at Jungle Hut, with many adventures along the way! The children have thoroughly enjoyed being outside and exploring the local area. Going on bear hunts has been a great success, who knew Marnhull had so many bears! Hearing the children talk with so much enthusiasm and imagination is very rewarding.

Come rain or shine we all love being outside and having lots of fun. Splashing through puddles and singing 10 speckled frogs has been really enjoyable, especially with the children working together to build their own slide to make an even bigger splash!

This term we have introduced theme days which we have all enjoyed. Our Pirate theme saw the children making telescopes, treasure maps, walk the plank, listening and joining in with many pirate stories and not forgetting the pirate snacks! We have also held a teddy bears picnic following the great interest from our bear hunt walks.

When we haven't been outside playing we have been busy indoors doing a variety of baking: cakes, biscuits and even soup! The children love being involved measuring and mixing and of course sampling their creations!

Their imagination this term has been amazing to see and this has been encouraged through our own superhero puppet show, where we have heard some very interesting stories! We have our very own supermarket, where the children love being the grown-ups. Our hairdressers has also been another great hit, with children experimenting and laughing along the way.

We have now introduced Forest School, which is taken by Natalie, our fully qualified Forest School Teacher. The aim of our Forest School sessions is to encourage and inspire the children through positive outdoor experiences. We are lucky enough to have use of St Gregory's playing field so we can create our own Forest adventure.

At least twice a week we visit St Gregory's to take full advantage of the school hall space where we enjoy many activities including use of the gym equipment. This term we have also been using their ICT suite to read to the children using the computers, which has proved extremely popular.

Our recent visit from Early Years, went really well and recognised all the hard work everyone has put in to achieving an enjoyable, happy, safe place for all the children.

Here at Jungle Hut we have now introduced breakfast club, so we are now open from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, Monday to Friday. Children from the age of 2 are welcome right up until they start school. We accept funding for children 3 years up, if you would like further information please contact us on 01258 820096 or email us thejunglehutpreschool@hotmail.com . Claire, our newly appointed manager will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

We are excited to say we are holding an open afternoon on Friday 6th April with lots of fun activities planned, more information to follow.

Come and join us on Friday 16th March for our Easter Bingo at Marnhull Village Hall. Doors will open at 7.00 pm and eyes down at 7.30 pm. Posters will be distributed around the village over the coming weeks, hope to see you there.

Claire and the team.

Garden Reflections for the month of...
...March

February Fill Dyke, it certainly feels like it! So far we have had rainy days but generally it's been cold and dry which means, hopefully, we have had the sunshine.

Later this month we will be sowing salad crops such as tomatoes, which are sown on 15th February to be planted in the greenhouse on, or soon after, the 15th April, light being the limiting factor for growth.

Time to sow the summer annuals, although often cheaper to purchase, for planting out at the end of May after the last frosts which are around the 21st which is Franken's Night, all about beer, cider, apple trees and selling souls to the Devil, but that's another story!

Broad beans can be sown direct, although our first are now planted out and the next germinating, sown in modules, as it is more economical in seed and more vigorous plants are produced for planting out.

Just dug the last of the spring onions and beetroot but picking groundcress from outside and lettuce from our little greenhouse. First chard sown, along with annual spinach in the heated propagator. On the ornamental front annual climbers and other early annuals, Marigolds, Calendula, Gazania (which we grow as annuals) Gaura, and Ricinus. Nasturtiums will be sown direct into their flowering containers in April.

Now for something completely different.

At a recent conference on management of all year round open public gardens the important issue of visitor attraction was highlighted. I am referring to the fifty or so gardens that are either National Trust plus a number of standalone sites. Examples being Sissinghurst, Hestercombe, Compton Acres and Stourhead. How are visitors attracted for that first visit and possible subsequent visits? What is required to keep them on site and make them spend money; how do those visitors view the garden? Why are they attracted and what are the reasons for that particular visit? Many questions to answer.

Firstly, who visits these gardens, yes, the young families, for the children to let off steam, the keen gardener with a plant interest, and the older visitor for a day out? So what is the attraction? Yes, it is the ambiance and the horticultural content, but what comes first, especially for the majority of visitors? The loos, a good accessible coach and car park and then coffee, so we need the café, often more money is spent there before the actual garden visit (this is perfectly possible in a number of sites).

Many visitors do not look at the plants but walk around the garden for the landscape experience, for a chat about the family or their aches and pains and possibly see a plant, oh I have one of those in my garden, I wonder what it is? Then walk on.

The keen horticulturist comes to look at the craft of gardening, appreciate the plants and possibly to criticise the period correctness of both plants and hardscaping and will then write to the owners voicing their opinions. Often the sitting area outside the café and, for example, the Italian garden at Compton acres (this garden being used as a good example), can be a popular place in the garden, easily accessible and comfortable.

Do people appreciate the landscape?

Using Stourhead as an example, the long walk being the reason for the visit with interest in the wider landscape and not individual plants, conversely East Lambook Manor will be frequented by keen gardeners who possibly would wish to identify the plants. Labelling is another issue for gardens, especially with Botanic Gardens and collections where this is acceptable and necessary, quite a point for argument. We have heard of the public removing the labels as they detract from the aesthetics of the planting. To attract visitors and the like they also need facilities.

So what are the NGS open gardens to do? Well they do very well and again parking is sometimes a problem but they generally have loos, and tea, and cakes.

On a more practical note with budgets stretched it is often a temptation to decrease the planting density giving a spotted effect, it would be a great improvement to decrease the size of the planting area, possibly returning this to grass so giving impact with denser planting to a smaller area. Often the practical solution for public access and safety, but again this problem of period correctness can interfere with the original garden concept; however up to date cultivars of original plant species often are more suited to cultivation and management. For gardens to be open all the year round the planting design must incorporate interest, colour and structure, species choice being important and possibly a story. Balance is the order of the day and as long as the car can be parked, the loos are clean and the coffee is good, even if it is raining, visitors will be contented.

Back to earth, we can now enjoy the road verges with Snowdrops, lesser Celandines, Daffodils (especially the churchyard planting so ably done by the garden club) and soon Anemones, Primroses and Bluebells.

Marnhull Garden Club

Dog Fouling On The Rec

Having had a good few months with little or no dog mess reported on the Recreation ground, it is with regret that we must report an increase in complaints about the amount of dog faeces not only on the Rec but worst of all in the Children's Play Area.

Dogs are not allowed into the Children's Play area under any circumstances.

Parish Council Rules regarding use of the Recreation ground clearly state that 'Dogs are allowed on the ground but MUST be on a lead and under the control of a responsible person at all times. Dog faeces must be removed and either taken home for disposal or placed in the bins provided'. Notices are cleared displayed to illustrate this point.

There are still appears to be a few irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to run free and do not clear up after them even although there are many bins available to deposit dog waste. Dog faeces contains Toxicara which can have a serious effect on young children and adults. It can affect the eyes and cause breathing difficulties. The groundsmen that keep the Recreation ground neat and tidy are also put at risk by this carless act.

New dog waste bins are being installed in areas within the village. The first is in Ham Lane leading onto the Ridgeway. Although this bin is used regularly it was sad to see that some irresponsible dog owner(s) allowed their animals to defecate within three feet of the bin and on the path leading up to it without clearing up.

Although there are stiff fines for allowing your dog to defecate in these public areas the Parish Council feel that education in these matters is a better solution. We would ask responsible dog owners and members of the public if they see dogs running free in these areas or defecating to perhaps have a gentle word with the owners pointing out the notices and dog bins.

Your help in this matter would be much appreciated as we want to keep these areas clean and tidy for the use of all Parish residents and visitors.

Remember 'Bag it and Bin it, most people in this area do.

Cllr Sandy Kerr, Marnhull Parish Council.

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Sturminster Newton Floral Group

Our next demonstration is on Wednesday the 14th of March and is a Demonstration called "Creative Inspirations "and will take place in the Stour Hall at the Exchange Sturminster Newton, the demonstrator is Nicky Heal, the time is 7 30 and all are very welcome , any enquiries please ring either Sturminster Newton 01258 472024 or 472902

Looking for Funding?

Dorset Fundfinder is a new tool which enables Dorset's community organisations to search and browse funding, grants and information. Once registered, you can search your way through 100's of funding opportunities. www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/dorset

Why not take a look? Alternatively, here's my top 5…

National Lottery Awards for All
Tesco Bags of Help Grants Programme
Asda Foundation
Carrier for Causes
Dorset Community Foundation

To make an appointment to discuss your funding requirements, contact the office on 01258 471456 or email team@sturquest.org.uk.

Jacqui Wragg - Community Resource Worker

Dorset Wildlife Trust

North Dorset March Events

Dorset's submarine landscapes, habitats and wildlife are less understood and appreciated than our land environment. This means that damage can go unnoticed for longer and partly explains why marine life around the UK has been declining.

That is why Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are vital for the welfare of our seas. Dorset Wildlife Trust's Marine Conservation Officer, Emma Rance, will give an insight into the wildlife wonders around our coastline when she gives an illustrated talk on 'Living Seas' at Fontmell Magna Village Hall (SP7 0PF) on Wednesday 21st March. The talk starts at 7.30p.m. and costs £2 for adults (including refreshments), with no charge for children under 16.

There will also be items from the DWT online shop available for sale after the talk, as well as a wide range of free leaflets on the work of DWT and an opportunity to discuss DWT's marine work with Emma after the talk.

A date for your diary:

Wednesday, 18th April: 'Herbal Remedies – Healing with Plants' an illustrated talk by herbal specialist, Julie Wood. The talk is at Fontmell Magna Village Hall (SP7 0PF) and starts at 7.30pm. Entry £2, no charge for children under 16. Refreshments included.

Marnhull & Gillingham Badminton Club

Marnhull & Gillingham BADMINTON Club

Badminton for beginners

Monday club social night: 8–10pm (except bank holidays)
£25 Joining Fee
Adults £4.50
Family £7.00 (up to 2 adults & 2 children)
Juniors £3.00
ALL COACHING FREE (Badminton England Coach)
Loads of fun for children and familes

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

Lacemaking in North Dorset

On the 16th January 1988, a group of lacemakers from in and around Sturminster Newton area started Stour Lacemakers with the aim "of promoting the craft of lacemaking with particular application to bobbin lace and for members to exchange ideas and further their skills in the craft".

The group is still meeting twice a month, with the same aims and has a lively membership of around 20 women. The group has a great mix experience (from about 6 months to 40+ years) and we all learn from each other. Meetings are very social affairs with everyone admiring each other's work, discussing problems and swapping new patterns and ideas from the world of lace.

We are always keen to pass on our skills to new members. If you would like to try your hand at lacemaking, why don't you come along to one of our taster sessions? We can loan you all the equipment you need to get started and have someone on hand to guide you. These sessions are completely free and we don't expect any commitment, so you have nothing to lose. However, be warned lacemaking is addictive – I came along for a taster 10 years ago and absolutely loved it!

All sessions start at 2.00pm and are held in Manston Village Hall on the 2nd Saturday of the month. If you would like a try, please ring us to book a place. Linda Maskell 01258 472296 or Maureen Allen 860497

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Crossword and Sudoku Answers

ACROSS
1. Pathan 4. Major 6. Poe 7. Espalier 8. Easy 11. Alice 13. Hyde 15. Boursin 16. Academy 17. Alps 19. Barre 21. Anna 24. Calliope 25. Big 26. Clove 27. Saxony

DOWN
1. Peeps 2. Hispaniola 3. NAAFI 4. Maine 5. Jersey 6. Pope 9. Atoll 10. Ypres 12. Chicken pox 13. Hydra 14. Damon 18. Psycho 19. Bilge 20. Reims 22. Nobby 23. Agog

Medium

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

Hard

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

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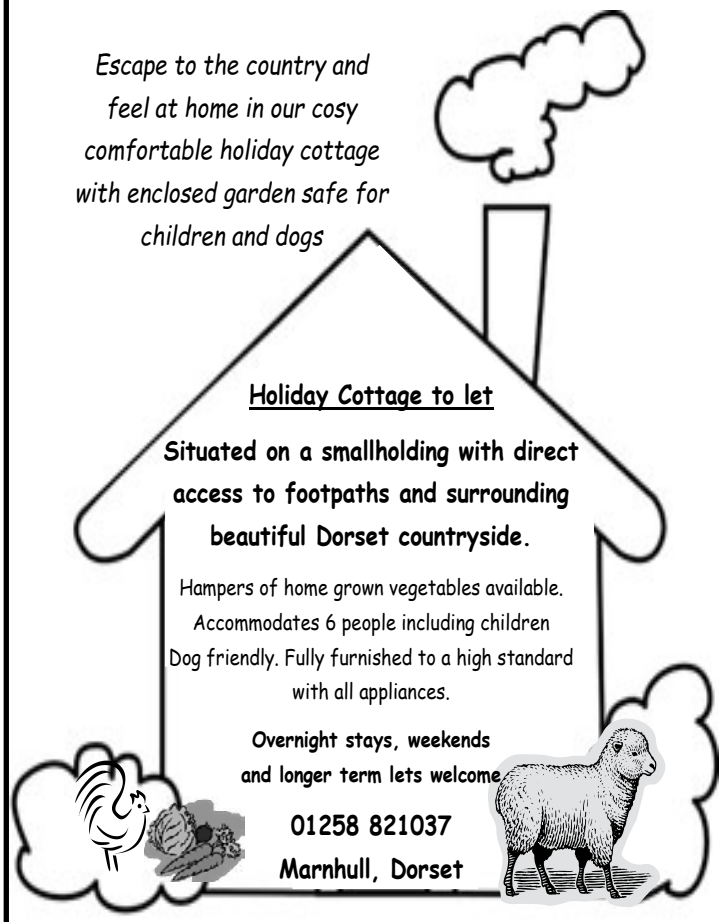

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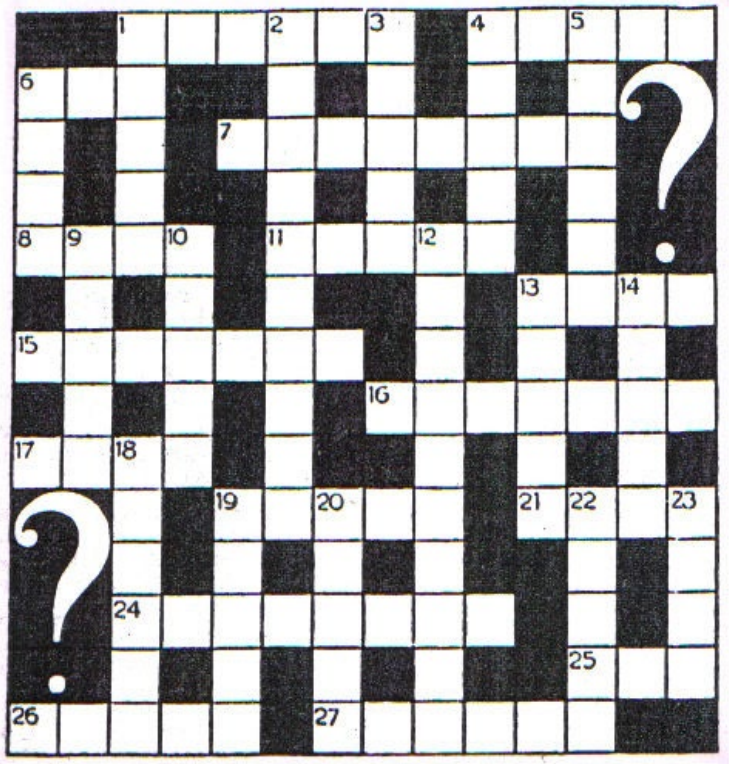
All welcome

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

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

Medium Difficulty

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

Weatherbury Singers

We welcome anyone who is interested in joining our friendly community choir this term. We are currently rehearsing songs from shows and films and folk songs with a couple of sacred pieces to add some variety, in preparation for our summer concert on Saturday, 19th May 2018 at Buckland Newton Village Hall. The Weatherbury Singers, established in the mid-1990s, rehearse during term times in approximately 10 week blocks with a concert at Christmas and in the summer and enjoy singing a wide variety of songs to ensure there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Our members come, not only from Puddletown, but also from a number of villages in the locality. We do not audition and are pleased to welcome anyone who enjoys singing, and is keen to learn and improve their musical skills. Singing is good for our well-being, so why not come along or bring a friend or partner and give it a try!

Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9:30pm with a half time tea break at the Church Room, Puddletown. Please call Judy on 01305 260284 to register your interest or for more information or email weatherburysingers@gmail.com.

ACROSS

1) Member of a people inhabiting NW Pakistan and SE Afghanistan. (6)
4) Army rank between lieutenant colonel and captain. (5)
6) Writer of the poem The Raven. (3)
7) Train a tree or shrub to grow along a wall. (8)
8) See 25A).
11) Neighbour of the pop group Smokie according to their 1976 hit. (5)
13) Villainous character invented by Robert Louis Stevenson . (4)
15) Type of French soft cheese. (7)
16) Award often called an Oscar. (7)
17) European mountain range. (4)
19). Horizontal support for ballet dancers. (5)
21) Formerly one sixteenth of a rupee. (4)
24) Instrument resembling an organ with notes produced by steam whistles. (8)
25) and 8A) Nickname of New Orleans. (3)
26) Part of a bulb of garlic. (5)
27) German state with its capital at Dresden. (6)

DOWN

1) Chronicler of the Great Fire of London. (5)
2) Second largest island in the Caribbean. (10)
3) Canteen or shop for service men and women. (5)
4) US state with its capital at Augusta. (5)
5) Largest of the Channel Islands. (6)
6) Nicholas Breakspeare is the only Englishman to have held this post. (4)
9) A ring shaped reef or chain of islands formed of coral. (5)
10) French city, site of the Menin Gate commemorating the battles of WW1 fought there. (5)
12) The common name of the infectious disease varicella. (10)
13) Many headed snake in Greek mythology. (5)
14) Matt US film star. (5)
18) Norman Bates was the lead character in this 1960 Alfred Hitchcock thriller. (6)
19) Lowest internal portion of a ship's hull. (5)
20) French city unofficial capital of the champagne wine growing region. (5)
22) Nickname of World Cup winning footballer Norbert Peter Stiles. (5)
23) Eager or curious. (4)

All puzzle answers on page 28

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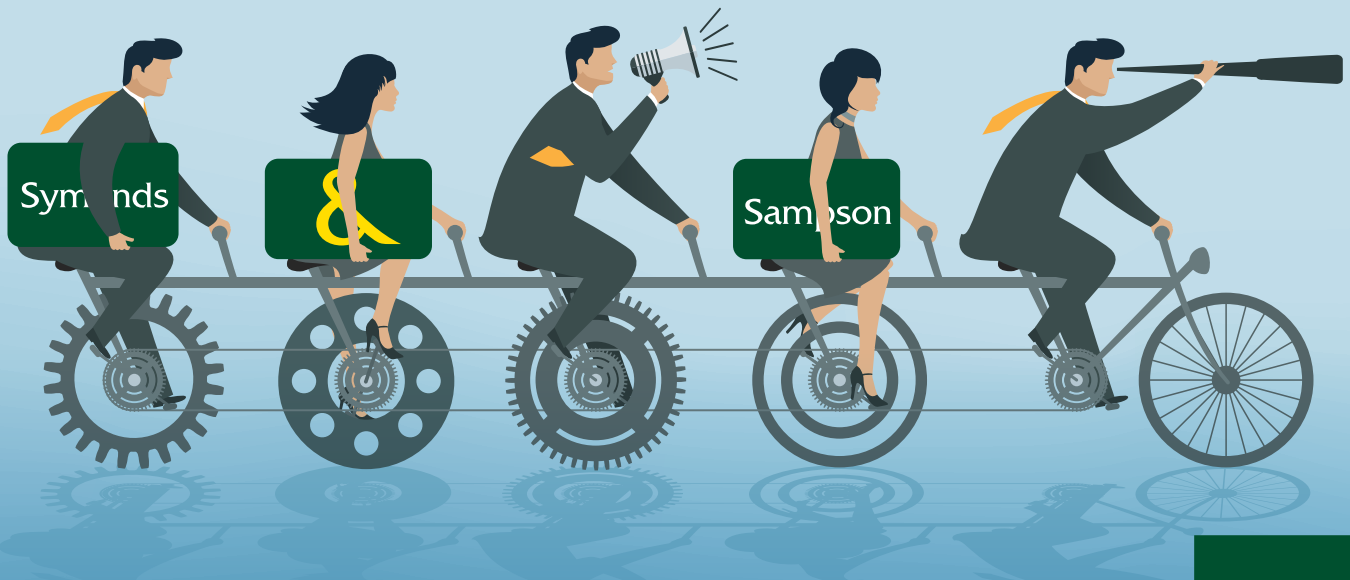

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