Marnhull Messenger

Original illustration by George Cox

www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk

April 2018 - Issue 83

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Spot the New Daffodils!

On a damp Wednesday in October, members of The Garden Club met in St Gregory's churchyard in order to plant 600 narcissus bulbs consisting of 3 different species to extend the growing period. These were sourced by the Garden Club and the cost was met jointly by the Church and Garden Club.

Our thanks go to Eleanor Woodhouse a Church Warden and Garden Club Member for coordinating the project. Thanks also to those Club members who turned out despite the drizzle! We hope you agree that this makes a cheerful display to brighten the dull late-winter days.

Marnhull Garden Club

A Cleaner, Nicer, Village

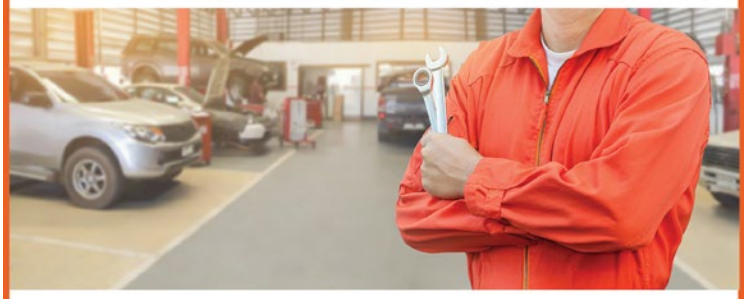
Did you notice how litter free the village was by the end of Feb?

A big thank you to the 20 plus village litter picking volunteers who braved the cold collecting over 30 bags of litter plus a trailer load of assorted items including childrens toys, a sandbag and numerous car parts. We now cover all the principal lanes and roads in the village and also have teams pushing out on the main roads. Do let us know if we've missed anywhere.

Many people are now looking after their 'own patch' and I know of others who take a bag out with them and pick up any litter they come across. Do join in!

At the moment we borrow equipment from Dorset Waste Partnership. Their stocks and availability is limited so we are looking to raise money to purchase the necessary pickers and visi jackets. This will enable us to carry out clear ups on a more regular basis and, with a few more volunteers, go wider afield. If you'd like to 'sign up' (it's a couple of hours every few months if you're free) please call me: John Seear (01258) 269743.

cooksgarage
service centre



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Welcome to your Marnhull Messenger

Chris Ryu - Messenger Editor

While the snow caused plenty of issues for people, I always think that even snow clouds have a silver lining.

The village Facebook group over those few days was a place of community spirit. There were stories of villages returning lost pets, checking to see if there was any vulnerable people needing help, etc.

There's nothing like really bad weather to bring a community together.

Speaking of which... You'll see a few articles about a special someone in the village that went above and beyond.

Normally I wouldn't publish duplicate articles, but in this case I think it's fitting to show how widely appreciated this person is... find out more on page 15.

Hopefully by the time you read this, spring will be here properly!

Deadline For Next Issue

MID-DAY 17th April

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

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Marnhull Conservation Areas

Second Stage Survey March 1971

We were following Mr Pakenham's (the Area North Planning Officer) March 1971 survey of the Conservation Areas and had reached the Congregational Chapel in Sackmore Lane.

No 16. "Gate is rotten and partially collapsed". This is the gate into OS 142, the field by Sackmore Lane, between Four Winds and Grangefield, although in 1971, Grangefield had not been built.

No 18. "Screen planting for post war local authority housing would enhance lane." Mr Pakenham was referring to Sackmore Green.

No 19. "Excellent view across open country to church." Mr Pakenham was presumably standing by the entrance into Sackmore Green and his views SE across the fields to the St Gregory's would not have been impeded by the GPO (now BT) buildings that are now there.

Mr Pakenham now returns to Burton St.

Nos 20 and 22. "Attractive clipped Cotoneaster on face of building and attractive stone wall and clipped hedging." I think this refers to Fernlea and Cote House garden wall.

No 23. "Street Nameplate – Love Lane"

No25. "Road Sign – All locomotives, heavy motor vehicles are prohibited". I find it bizarre that in 1971, large, heavy traffic such as this was banned from using Love Lane. Since then, some bureaucrat in Dorset County Council decided to open the lane to all traffic. The result of his poor decision is that Love Lane is now wrecked and the County Council condones the appalling condition that it is in now.

Nos 24, 26, 27, 29. Village Shop – one projecting sign 1ft x 1ft 6in approx. – Walls Ice Cream, portable ice cream sign and litter bin. Shop is recent extension to stone dwelling house, is very ordinary and has host of window advertisements" "Alterations to rear of house (a garage) blend in well". "Open gravel forecourt with chain link fencing around""Pleasant recently constructed garage". These comments cover Tennys Court, which in previous times (1943) was the village shop. It would appear that Col Derek Emley, who bought the house in 1967 had not got around to decluttering the front of Tennys Court of its shop paraphernalia by 1971.

No 28. "Recently built telephone exchange, partly hidden by 2 large evergreens, telephone call box and small tarmaced (sic) area for parking." Mr Pakenham's description of "recently built" is quite interesting. The Telephone Exchange was actually built in 1932 on a small parcel of land that had been purchased from The Grange. As a utility building, it is built of brick. The story of the original telephone box outside shows that accountants ruled, even in the 1970s. When the Crown Estate was developed (1968 -1972), the residents nagged the GPO for a new telephone box to serve the new estate. The GPO's response was to move the box outside the Telephone Exchange some 200 yards down Burton St, next to Bower Cottage, where it still stands.

The description of "Two large evergreens" proves that large trees have grown on the banking on the South side of Burton Street for well over 80 years, contrary to what a certain District Councillor claimed at a planning meeting last December.

The Old Telephone Exchange was made redundant, when the much larger exchange was built in Sackmore Lane. In 1981, it was sold to Mr Clive Ross who used it as an electronics laboratory. In 1994, Clive Ross rented the building to his son Paul, who used the laboratory to develop and manufacture electro-surgical instruments used in minimal invasive surgery. In the early part of the 21st Century the building was sold off and converted into a private residence.

Tim Eveleigh Burton Street

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 Bridge Club

Marnhull Bridge Club meets in the Methodist Hall every Tuesday at 2 pm to play Chicago.

New Players always welcome.

Annual Diary 2018

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

For Village Hall bookings please call 01258 820853

April

2nd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
2nd - Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion Club
3rd - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
4th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
4th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
6th - Marnhull Lunch Club @ 00:00
7th - Jumble Sale @ 10:15 British Legion Club
9th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
9th - Women's Institute - Annual Meeting - Cheese and Wine @ 19:30
10th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
10th - Garden Club- 'A Growing Concern'- Plants for Samaritans - Di Gilliver @ 19:30
11th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
11th - Mother's Union - Air Ambulance @ 14:30 Methodist Church
11th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
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 - Marnhull Music Society @ 19:15
16th - Music Society - Gents' Choice presented by David Woodhouse @ 19:15
17th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
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 - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
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
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

1st - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
2nd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
2nd - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
4th - Marnhull Lunch Club @ 00:00
7th - Mothers' Union Coffee Morning @ 10:00 Marnhull
7th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
8th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
8th - Garden Club - "Propagation and Gardeners Advice" - David Loder @ 19:30
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
12th - Plant & book sale @ 10:00 British Legion
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
15th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
16th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
16th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30
17th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
17th - Help for Heroes Coffee Morning @ 10:00 Yew House Farm
17th - Marnhull Yarners @ 14:00
18th - Marnhull POPPIn Cafe @ 10:00
21st - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
21st - Marnhull Music Society @ 19:15
21st - Music Society - Presentation by Nick Lalor @ 19:15
22nd - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
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
29th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
30th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15
30th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30

June

1st - Marnhull Lunch Club @ 00:00
2nd - Jumble sale @ 10:15 British Legion Club
5th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
7th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
8th - Blackmore Vale Art Group - Workshop with Mike Bragg "Branching out: Painting Trees in Mixed Media" @ 10:30
11th - Women's Institute- Telling Stories- My Family and Other Lies- Tracey Baines @ 19:30
12th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
12th - Garden Club - "Fragrant Roses" - Martin Young @ 19:30
14th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
15th - Marnhull POPPIn Cafe @ 10:00
18th - Marnhull Music Society @ 19:15
18th - Music Society - AGM and presentation by Colin Shiner @ 19:15
19th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
21st - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30
21st - Marnhull Yarners @ 14:00
26th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
28th - 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!

Mothers' Union

There were plenty of keen listeners when 4 visitors joined 22 members for a talk from Anne Powell about South Sudan in East Africa, a country troubled by Civil War. Our diocese has links with the Diocese of Lui, in South Sudan, which was created in 1999 having originated as a Church Missionary Society station in 1920.

Anne gave us an idea of the life of the women in Lui. Their day starts early about 4.30 am when they begin sweeping the area around their houses to keep it clear of debris and lessen the risk of fire. The houses are timber framed with mud walls and thin thatched roofs.

Water has to be collected from the well and is carried home on their heads. Laundry has to be done and most of the agricultural work is also done by the women. Families try to be self sufficient. They normally have two cooked meals a day, rarely meat, and the meals are eaten immediately after cooking. The average family has about 5 children but have often lost others because of the high child mortality rate

The levels of literacy are low especially with the females as the girls are often unable to go to school for any length of time as they have to look after their younger siblings. There has been training to set up pre-schools to help ease the problem. MU thrives and the members are very proud to wear their uniforms and badges. We pray for peace in South Sudan

Next meeting is on April 11th and the talk will be about the Air Ambulance, visitors always welcome.

Royal British Legion

The snow wiped out the first jumble sale of the year, sadly there was not enough time to make an announcement but it would have been a very enthusiastic bargain hunter who would have braved those elements to come out anyway. The new date is April 7th so as usual if you have anything give me a call and I will collect or bring it to the hall on the day.

The weather also unfortunately put paid to the restart of the bingo season, although the snow had stopped falling the car park was covered in snow and slush and it was considered too dangerous to continue. Hopefully however the one on March 22nd went ahead and the fortnightly programme should be able to carry on from there until Christmas. Lyn always has great prizes so feel free to come down and enjoy a friendly evening with a 7pm start.

We will be holding our annual plant and book sale on Saturday May 12th at 10am so if you have any donations nearer the time please give me a call or bring them to the hall. Attendances have been dropping off for the past few years so it would be good if we could see a bit of a resurgence this year so please make an effort to look in or put a tray of plants to one side for us or of course any books you have laying about.

As I said in last month's issue the Poppy Appeal collector's trophy was presented by our President Cmdr. Julie Vitali RNR to Colin Hayward not for the first time. The recipient of the award is decided by a mixture of percentage increase and length of service but however we looked at it Colin was an outright winner. Many collector's showed increases and Poppy Appeal Organiser Val Eslick thanked them all and stressed how much the appeal relies on their efforts. The static trophy went to the Robin Hill Stores as it has since its inception and it is hard to see it ever going anywhere else, but you never know. It wasn't a bad turnout but if you are a collector and you have any thoughts on what would encourage you to come please let us know your ideas.

As usual we have a full programme of Saturday night entertainment during April including on the 14th a slight change in our usual fare with a visit from local band Loose Connections. Non members pay a modest £2 entry fee and we have a range of bottled and draught beers, lagers and ciders so feel free to give us a try. We can also provide booking for family celebrations, give Tony a ring for more details.

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

Marnhull Garden Club

James Harper of the Watercress Company gave a spirited talk to the Club. He told us that he actually started life working at Monkey World, then did a "grown up gap year", returned to Dorset and to the Watercress Company. He raced through a potted history of watercress growing from the start in the 1850s, which amongst other things involved two warring brothers, the owner of the Olds Motor Company, the Jesty family of Yetminster (David "discovered" that having cowpox ensured you didn't get smallpox, twenty years before Jenner but didn't publicise it),the second registered trade name in the country, and the eventual amalgamation of various firms to create the present business which is the largest global producer of watercress. They now have growing facilities in Jerez, Spain and near Saratoga, Florida so are able to provide watercress and other salads – wasabi, lettuce etc. the whole year round, totaling 2 million kilos a year!

Watercress requires chalk aquifer water (spring fed is best). It was a labour intensive industry, harvesting being back-breaking for the men, and the freezing packing sheds similarly for women. After being washed and packed, it was sent to London by horse and cart, then train and now lorry. Hence the Watercress Line in Alresford – it waited for the cress but not for passengers. Cress was sold in bunches to the people coming out from the slum factories, who ate it like ice-cream, discarding the stalks as by then they were filthy from the workers' hands. It was called Poor Man's Bread. Fortunately mechanisation has changed the labour aspect, but the growing method is unchanged.

Then the really interesting bit – its benefit to humans. ANDI score is a rating of the nutrient density of foods – and cress is 1000/1000, 10 times more than blueberries! Who knew or had heard of ANDI score? He told us that he supplies NHS Dorchester with cress to make smoothies – this took a lot of persuasion – and there is considerable interest in cress for the prevention and treatment of cancer. There is also a Watercress Festival on 20th May at Alresford. It was an interesting talk, and we all left with bags of green stuff.

Next month's talk is "A Growing Concern, Plants for Samaritans". Visitors are always welcome.

SB

St Gregory's Church Concerts

Organ Recital at St.Gregory's

Stephen Binnington will present a 50-minute organ recital on Saturday 21st April at 7.00pm in aid of the choir fund. The music will feature works by English, French and German composers, spanning over 300 years of musical history. There will light refreshments afterwards. It is prior to recitals Stephen will present in Dursley, Gloucestershire and All Hallows-by-the-Tower, London at the beginning of May.

Sherborne School for Girls - Concert

St.Gregory's Church will host a concert by talented pupils from Sherborne School for Girls on Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm.

Although details have yet to be finalised, a terrific amount of choral and instrumental music takes place in the school and a varied and interesting programme is guaranteed.

Advance Notice

Help for Heroes Coffee Morning

Will be on **Thursday 17th May** at

Yew House Farm, Husseys, New St, Marnhull

Any queries please ring Diana or George Stephens - 01258 821418

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From The Surgeries

Staff

Dr Greenup has now returned to work at the practice and will be working 2 days per week.

Dr Emily Chamberlain has joined the team at Sturminster Newton and will be working 1 day per week until the end of August and from September this will increase to 2 days per week.

Louise Stenner has now joined us a Nurse Practitioner but we say goodbye to Jess Cradock, Nurse Practitioner and Sara Todd, Nurse Team Manager.

Richard Broad, one of our Nurse Practitioners has been appointed to a new post - Clinical Services Manager and this will bring about the amalgamation of the practice Nursing and Nurse Practitioner teams.

We are also reviewing how we currently provide urgent same day appointments. This will involve all of our Nurse Practitioners, the duty Doctor and Adam Smith our Paramedic.

Flu Vaccine

We are still able to offer Flu Vaccines to any eligible patients who have not yet been vaccinated. Work will start shortly on an advertising campaign for the 2018-19 Flu Season. The vaccine causes your body to develop antibodies to several strains of the influenza virus and these antibodies help protect you against infection.

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.

Village Hall - Exciting Opportunity

Exciting opportunity for a village-minded Quantity Surveyor (or similar).

Are you – or do you know a (retired) QS or similar with the usual associated building knowledge and estimating skills?

Such a person would be a great help to us in taking the Village Hall extension and improvement project to its next stage.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please do contact me to discuss where we are at present and if you could assist.

Stephen Bland
01258 820171

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

Dorset Police

WORKING TOGETHER PACT

There is only one crime to report for February - a theft of an electric bicycle.

THEFT FROM VEHICLES AT BEAUTY SPOTS

Whether you are out and about visiting local beauty spots either to walk the dog or just enjoying the local countryside think about whether you need to take valuables with you.

Please reduce the risk of your vehicle being targeted by ruthless thieves by ensuring that you remove any items of value - handbags, sat navs, computers, cameras, mobile phones and other items of value are very attractive to the thief.

Whether you park your car in a beauty spot, a car park or at the side of the road - be vigilant. Remove it, Lock it leaflets are available from your 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

The local NPT surgeries are held on the 1st Thursday of the month. A member of the NPT will be in attendance at Post Office from 11.30-11.45am and The Spar from 12 noon-12.15pm.

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

Music Society

It was Ladies' Choice for February, and we had a wide range of items, from Mendelssohn's Concerto for 2 Pianos, composed when he was 14, to Poulenc's Gloria – a strange choral work.

There was classic Verdi, Traviata and La Forza del Destino (the theme music of the film Jean de Florette), Bridge over Troubled Waters sung by Elvis which was superb, Barry's Dances with Wolves and Cole Porter's Brush up your Shakespeare – with Sid James of all people!

Bach's double violin Largo was new to me, as was Torelli's Concerto in D, both excellent. Dvorak's Rosalka played on a harp was enchanting, as was Renée Fleming and Jonas Kaufman's song from Puccini's La Rondine and Emma Kirkby playing Mozart's Laudate Dominum.

The final piece was the haunting Ashokan Farewell by Ungar – which I now know to be a place in up-state New York not far from Woodstock and not an Indian tribe. Always something new to learn at the Music Society.

Shirley

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POPPin Café

Oh la la! Spring has sprung and we are going a little bit French at the POPPIn Cafe this month! So why not join us on Friday 20th April at the Village Hall from 10-12 midday when we will be serving some French style pastries as well as our usual scrumptious cakes made by our lovely volunteer home bakers.

If the mood takes you, then why not pop on a French styled outfit for the occasion! You can be sure that we will all be in French mode at the POPPIn!

Over the next few months we have plans to celebrate the Royal Wedding in May and hope to raise funds for Dorset Air Ambulance in June at the cafe.

Au revoir!

Linda, Sue, Jill, Audrey, Anne, Lynda, Joy.

The New Marnhull Players Pantomime Group

We are enjoying organising a few events through out the year,

We have our Easter fair on Saturday 24th March, 10am- 12pm at the village hall there will be lots of stalls and games and also refreshments of bacon or sausage baps.

On Sunday 13th May we have our annual tea dance, 2pm- 5pm at the village hall there will be cream teas with cake and lots of dancing.

We will be at the Marnhull fest and flower show on Saturday 14th July.

On Saturday 1st December we will be having our annual Christmas Ball, 7:30pm - midnight at the village hall with disco and buffet Christmas dinner.

We will also be having our annual Bingo at the village hall date to be confirmed. Hope to see at some of our events.

All the cast

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Mon April 16th - Bingo 7pm Sat April 21st - Stage One Sat April 28th - Jefferson Jon
Mon April 30th - Bingo 7pm

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

Marnhull Garden Club AGM

The Garden Club AGM was held on 13 February, and we were greeted by very pretty tables decorated with pots of snowdrops, courtesy of Viv Bruce. The first items on the Agenda – apologies, Minutes of last AGM, matters arising – passed without incident. The Treasurer's Report revealed a healthy Club and it, and the Auditor's Report were unanimously accepted.

The Chairman's Report covered the year's events, from the window display in Robin Hill Stores, visits to Common Garden Flowers and Mottisfont Abbey, participation in The Fest and St. Gregory's Thank God for Marnhull Festival, the Garden Party, Wine & Cheese and Christmas Skittles evening, and a one-off planting of 600 spring bulbs in the churchyard. The latter was considered a success and the membership agreed to repeat the event this year in a place somewhere in the village yet to be decided.

Two members of the Committee have resigned, Secretary Nick Lalor and Outings Organiser Malcolm Calvin, and two new volunteers have replaced them, Judy Reeve and Andrew Webb. There are also three new committee members, Jackie Green, Margaret Schellerup and Leslie Ruth. All these were voted in unanimously by the membership.

The next item was the subject of quite a lot of animated discussion – the Motion to increase subscriptions from £15 to £20 pa. For 10 meetings per year, plus the various other events, membership of Castle Gardens Gold Club and RHS, plus the cost of Speakers which is increasing every year, it seemed to be not unreasonable. The current membership is 90+, but with costs rising the leeway in finances can become stretched.

After various arguments for and against, a vote was taken: 38 For and 9 Against. Subscriptions will be due next month.

We then enjoyed an American Supper with a small quiz – 15 un-named packets of herbs/spices/condiments were passed round to be named. For some (me), it merely pointed up our ignorance, though star anise was pretty easy.

The next meeting is on 13 March "My Life in Watercress". All are welcome.

SB

Marnhull Lunch Club

Unfortunately, due to the forecast of imminent bad weather on the lunch club day, once again we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the lunch. We look forward to seeing everyone in April.

We are starting to collect items for our bottle and tin stall at the Marn'll Fest, and any contributions would be appreciated. Norval Faro

Parish Mutterings

The top topics being discussed this month:

Cricket club Service Level Agreement

Housing Development and Neighbourhood Plan

Increase in Precept

Annual Parish Assembly 20th April 7pm Village Hall

Trees in the Recreation Ground and Cemetery

Adoption of telephone box's New Street & Burton Street

Street Speed Control

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

Women's Institute

Our March meeting was on open one when friends, partners, and husbands were invited. The committee always approach such meetings with a bit of apprehension as we want to feel confident that our visitors will have an entertaining and interesting evening.

However we should have had no concerns this month as our speaker, Mr A McElwee was a natural raconteur and gave a very amusing account of his time as the Senior Manager at the National Trust property, Polesden Lacy in Surrey.

This property was the lavish country retreat of Mrs Greville who entertained the best of Edwardian society including the king himself. The Queen mother spent some of her honeymoon there. During the time that Mr McElwee was manager it was also the headquarters of the National Trust's South Eastern Region.

When he was interviewed for the job Mr McElwee was asked what he would like his legacy to be when he left (this was before he had even started !). His reply was that he would want everyone to go home with a smile on their face, staff, volunteers and visitors alike.

He certainly succeeded with the room stewards when he introduced the presence of cake at their tea breaks.

He had many amusing stories such as a bath without a plug in his flat when the previous occupant had used as substitute a plastic Christmas pudding basin complete with pudding, the summer festival when animal rights activists were rained off by a tremendous thunderstorm, the unfortunate bat that interfered with the newly installed security system and my favourite, an irate customer in the café who had dissected his fruit scone purchased for £1.15 (must have been some years ago !) and counted the currants or raisins. He found that there were 15 and he was disgusted that he had to pay 10p per fruit!

There was much laughter during the evening and we all certainly went away with a smile on our faces.

Rosemary Rowden.

Men's Shed Lays Foundations

Following a very well attended public meeting on 17th February, the plans for a Men's Shed in Marnhull have been moving forward with some speed. Initially there were some less-than-glamorous essentials that had to be established – formalisation of the management committee, adoption of a constitution and last, but definitely not least, opening a bank account. These tasks have all been completed, allowing the committee to focus on more interesting matters – what will the Men's Shed actually do, and where?

The latter question – Where can we open the Shed? – is obviously the major issue to be resolved before Shed activities can commence. The good news is that progress has been made in finding a temporary home for the Shed and the committee is hopeful that an agreement will be reached shortly. A temporary home will allow Shed members to meet regularly and establish projects both communal and individual. Meanwhile the hunt for permanent premises continues!

Village Hall Hire Charges For Weddings & Parties

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Marnhull Baby & Toddler Group

Well we have had a fun time over the last few weeks.

Our plans for world book day on 1st March had to be postponed to the following week 8th March due to that lovely snow. We had fun dressing up as our favourite characters, we had Gill from Usborne books visit us, she did a raffle and had a wide selection of books for sale. We also made Mother's day cards with a hand print poem inside and we put the children's hand prints on the front. They really enjoyed the feeling of the paint on there hands.

On the 15th March it was science week, We had fun playing with gel balls, that the children enjoyed squishing,bouncing and rolling. We also did a rocket craft where they and to stick their rocket together. we also had British science week balloons for the children to play with.

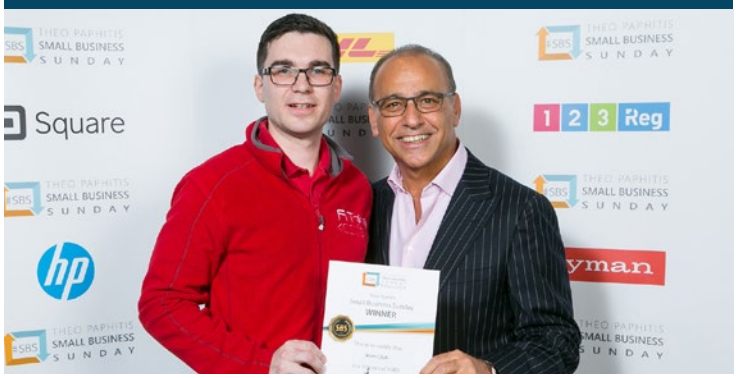
We have also just purchased a ball pit as we had loads of balls but nothing to put them in. All the children seem to be enjoying it playing different sorts of games and they enjoy helping to pick up all the balls and put them back in the pit.

On the 29th March we have our Easter party where we will be having an Easter egg hunt, party food, Easter craft and loads more fun.

There will be no baby and toddler group for 2 weeks as its the Easter holidays but we will back on Thursday 19th April.

Hope you have a lovely Easter. - Emma and Michelle

Atom Club - Dorset Science & Tech Centre



Theo Paphitis Award Winner Update

As mentioned last month, Chris took a trip to meet Dragon's Den star and global entrepeneur Theo at his national conference this month. The event offered a unique networking opportunity with various award winners and large companies such as HP and Rymans.

There wasn't much time with the man himself, but enough to make a few jokes and get a picture.

New supporters

Now that our robot battle arena is finished, we've started discussing a few activities with some Robot Wars teams. We're expecting to have something exciting to announce next month, but have already sourced a few battle damaged parts from some of the teams. With the announcement from the BBC that they've axed the show, we've partnered with a number of RW veterans to organise something very special starting later this year.

April Sessions

We've published our Easter activity list on our website, so please pay it a visit and book your sessions asap to avoid dissapointment. Due to popular demand, there'll be another slime making one and a re-run of our robot design session. We're about to start a whole course of robot building so this offers a nice introduction. We're also planning our first robot club session where you can come and build your first combat robot and battle it out in the arena.

Warehouse Progress

I'm afraid that we had a set-back this month due to the snow causing a roof leak, but the centre is tidy again and the warehouse is now open for children's parties. The planetarium is still being worked on.

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

More details on the championship can be found on our dedicated website: **www.dorsetrobots.co.uk**

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Marnhull Village Hall

MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL
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Quiz Night 28th April in Village Hall.

Teams of 4-6

Curry buffet provided by The Crown

Bar and prizes.

Further details on posters and from Suzanne Targett (821108) and Sioban Boyce (numbers of all Committee members last item below)

Redec working party

Come and join in! We are planning to refresh and partially redecorate the main hall and entrance foyer, on some selected Saturdays/Sundays probably in April / early May. Anyone willing to join in on one or more occasions will be welcomed and is asked to contact Stephen Bland or any other Committee member.

Our new website: www.marnhullvillagehall.org.uk

Please have a look if you haven't already. This has been redesigned and is attractive and easy to use. It will increasingly offer a range of functions and useful links. Dave Targett who constructed it is the website manager

Building Fund

A separate group is now spearheading the fundraising effort. This includes Suzanne Targett and Stephen Boyce who bring in great expertise and energy from the outside world, giving it a new boost for 2018. More news in due course.

We now have now reached £78,000 in total, with £29,000 of that raised in the last 30 months purely from the generosity and efforts of village residents and organisations.

Recent local contributions:

£35 from Robin Hill Store collecting bucket (one in Spar shop following), £370 Gardening Club raffle; £55 Art for Everyone; £100 + monthly from table tennis donations; £40 private donation Many, many thanks to all.

Bookings

Our Bookings Secretary Sioban Boyce will be very pleased to assist anyone needing any assistance with the on line booking facility.

Exec Committee Contacts

Chairman: Stephen Bland 820171 stephend_bland@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary: Dave Targett 821108 secretary@marnhullvillagehall.org.uk

Bookings Secretary: Sioban Boyce 820853 bookings@marnhullvillagehall.org.uk

Treasurer: John Dowsett 821534 treasurer@marnhullvillagehall.org.uk

Parish Council rep: Jane Wright

Sports Club rep: Tim Horn 821749

Caretaker: Tina Matthews 820054 teaspoontina@hotmail.com

Hero in the snow - the show must go on!

By 6.00 p.m. on Thursday 1st March darkness approached, snow was falling thick and fast and things were grinding to a halt in North Dorset and Somerset, A severe weather warning was in force.

Finding there would be no milk delivery to Marnhull next morning an unassuming guy got in his elderly (2 wheel drive) Golf and set off for Bruton Dairy - for 140 litres of milk. Passing abandoned cars and others in difficulty he finally reached Bruton, loaded up, turned round and about 8.00 p.m. he set off back to Marnhull. If only!! By then little else was moving, but trying different routes he finally managed to reach Wincanton and headed in hope for the 303. He found it blocked. Trying yet another route he was sliding around helplessly on a steep hill until a helpful 4x4 pushed him up, bumper to bumper and very gently. At Bourton further progress was impossible and he left the Golf and 140 litres of milk hopefully safe on the roadside..

By then it was close to 10.00pm and nothing moved. With few other options he set off, walked the eight and a half lonely miles home through the dark and ever thickening snow... Very cold and very wet he finally reached his bed past midnight

Thank you so much Atul for this quite extraordinary effort.

PS Refusing to be defeated, he was up three hours later to prepare for the day as usual, and a bit later enlisted the help of a very kind friend and neighbour with a 4x4, and together they departed once more for the milk (and car).

A Marnhull resident

Atul is running in the London Marathon this year and raising money for sense, the charity that works for children and adults who are deafblind and for others with communication difficulties. Sponsorship form at Robin Hill Stores.

A Thank You To The Robin Hill Stores

Clearly the Beast from the East did not deter Atul!

On behalf of the village the Parish Council would like to issue a huge thank you to Kay and Atul for their dedication to the community during the recent bad weather. The Shaftesbury Tesco may have had to close but not the Robin Hill Stores!

We understand as the snow tipped down Atul set off for milk collection in Bruton as the dairy would not or could not deliver and he came to a grinding halt in Gillingham – undeterred he walked home! He then went to Yeovil to collect the newspapers for us all! I am sure there is more.

As many of the store's customers already know he is running in the London marathon this year and his chosen charity is SENSE (a fantastic charity supporting people who are deafblind). If you haven't already supported Atul then perhaps members of the Parish could dig deep into their pockets as a way of saying THANK YOU to him for all his support to us.

The Pharmacy also managed to open so a big thank you to David Rose and all his staff and also to the Spar who support the other end of the village.

Marnhull Parish Council

Snow Problems

Yes , we had our brief time coping with the snow ! The weather forecasters got it right and we had some warning. Some people always go over and above what we can expect at times like this! One such person in our lovely village who really deserves a mention is Atul at The Robin Hill Stores . Not only did he get extra provisions so that none of us went short. Atul made arrangements to have the newspapers collected. Always smiling, always on the go what a great advert for the village . Well done and Thanks from the people of Marnhull.

David Andrews

Thoughts from Roman Catholic Deacon

To Forgive... and forget?

The young man sitting opposite me was fresh-faced with blond curly hair and a cheeky smile. In any other setting his angelic features could have suggested a choir-boy. However, the bruising on the side of his face, and the clear pain from cracked ribs told a different story. Ray had obviously had an altercation with "person or persons unknown". The unwritten rule of prison life told me that I was not likely to discover the identity of the assailant. "How are you" What a stupid question! "Fine!" he replied, his lips quivering with the pain he clearly felt.

I tested the water, as perhaps any chaplain might do. "If you meet this person again....is everything over?" I asked, hesitantly, "I mean, is anything else going to happen?" I ventured, feeling certain I had started the questioning on the wrong track.

"When they leave their cell, they will be finished." I realised from the tone of his far-from angelic response it indicated that any hope reconciliation was in vain!

I gently spoke, under my breath, those words from the Lord's Prayer, which is at the centre of my life as a prison chaplain - "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." And again, I reflected on those words from Luke's Gospel "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you." So hard to do! As Saint Teresa of Calcutta reminds us, if we really want to love, we must learn how to forgive.How could I hope to help Ray, whilst that hatred festered inside him.

Forgiveness has been at the centre of our spiritual lives recently as we have passed through the church's season of Lent, characterised by acts of penance, prayer and alms-giving. The joy of the resurrection of Our Lord, that glorious message of that first Easter morning has arrived. The eternal mercy of God, our Father, comes to the broken world on that moment, through his Son's death and resurrection for us all, for the forgiveness of our sins.

Forgiveness of others is something which we often have to face in our lives, and it is often the hardest of things to do. Beyond the actual forgiveness, is the need to "forget" - like my friend Ray -the really hard part of the process. At first sight, to forgive may be seen as an act of weakness, indeed an act of betrayal, should one be forgiving the perpetrator of an act of violence against a family member, for example.

In the 1980's I lived with my family in Colombia. At that time, the country was in the grip of a period of violence, with government forces battling the drugs cartels, who were ably supported by a variety of terrorist groups. Killings and kidnappings were popular actions for extorting money from the richer families. Inevitably the people who lost out during this period were the poor people of the country, who's livelihoods depended on obedience to cruel groups. Many lost family members in brutal killings, or kidnapping.

Our own family experience of the guerillas was far less dramatic, but the school my wife and I was working in was rapidly evacuated when FARC guerrillas came over the hills behind the school. The incident was controlled by the Colombian army in a matter of days, and we returned to the classroom.

I have following the peace negotiations of the recent years with interest and was disappointed that the peace accord failed to be passed in the referendum. The recent general election in which the FARC candidates were completely overwhelmed by the Conservative candidates. Whatever forgiveness that had been shown during the peace negotiations, it is clear that the past could not be "forgotten".

We must remember, like Ray, and like the leaders of FARC, the forgiveness can not change the past, but it can, and does, enlarge the future, giving us a way to move on in our lives. Let us pray daily for peace in our hearts to forgive, and, at least, try to forget.

St. Gregory's Church

Services & Events for April 2018

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

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

Wednesday 4th
11.00 Holy Communion

Sunday 8th - Second Sunday of Easter
08.00 – Holy Communion [said]
10.00 – Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 11th - No school service

Sunday 15th - Third Sunday of Easter
08.00 – Holy Communion [said]
10.00 – Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 18th
09.00 - Children's Service led by St Gregory's Primary School

Sunday 22nd - Fourth Sunday of Easter
08.00 – Holy Communion [said]
10.00 – Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 25th
09.00 - Children's Service led by St Gregory's Primary School

Sunday 29th - Fifth Sunday of Easter
08.00 – Holy Communion [said]
10.00 – Parish Eucharist

www.stgregorysmarnhull.org.uk

Marnhull Churches Sunday Services

Anglican Church of St. Gregory the Great, New Street
8.00 – Holy Communion
10.00 – Parish Eucharist
Weekday services as advertised
www.StGregorysMarnhull.org.uk

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

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 April

2–7 - Easter Week (all days Solemnities)

4 – The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)

21 – Saint Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Opt Mem)

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. His Gospel gives the teaching and memoirs of St Peter. 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)

Parish People

Nora Smith (formally of Gillingham) died on 1 March. RiP

Congratulations to Dan and Eileen Chimes who celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on Sunday 11 March.

Congratulations to our priest, Father Martin Budge, on the 30th anniversary of his ordination on 12 March.

The Methodist Church

Sunday Service.

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

As I write this, we are half way through the series of Lent reflections and lunches organised by Churches Together in Marnhull which we are being held in the Methodist church and hall. Once again it has been a pleasure to spend a little while hearing the thoughts of people from each of our churches on the bible passages appointed in the Lectionary for the following Sunday. After a somewhat slow start, probably due to people being "taken aback" by the early start to Lent this year, the lunches have been well attended and have provided a delightfully friendly and relaxed atmosphere for the members of the churches to socialise together and with people who are not regular church goers – you don't have to come to the service to be welcome at the lunch! Donations to help alleviate the sufferings of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh have been generous and we look forward to be able to send a useful amount to this cause after Easter.

In the Methodist church we occasionally have a Local Fellowship service. This means that instead of having an ordained or authorised lay person to lead the Sunday service, local church members plan and take part in the service themselves. This provides an opportunity for the members to worship in a less formal way and a challenge to express their Christian faith and ideas in a personal way. This year, Mothering Sunday on 11th March was such a service and many members of our congregation combined their talents to produce a delightful time of worship with prayers, poems and music. On this day, it was particularly moving to be able to remember briefly twenty mothers mentioned in the bible and to reflect that the problems and responsibilities they faced are still being faced by mothers today. We also remembered our own mothers by bringing photographs and attaching them to the new notice boards which we were able to purchase with some of the generous donation from Marnhull Messenger a few months ago. The improved sound system also purchased with that donation is very much appreciated by everyone who uses it, particularly nervous "amateurs" who are delighted not to have to worry about using the microphone! Thanks again to the Messenger team for your generosity.

We remind you again that 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. Tickets will be available after Easter. Further details in next month's Messenger.

You will probably be receiving this edition of the Marnhull Messenger a few days before Easter on 1st April. All of us at Marnhull Methodist Church wish you a very happy and blessed Easter and invite you to our service at 10:00am to join in our celebrations of that most important day to the Christian faith.

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.

Marnhull 12K Run

Marnhull Marnhull 12K And Fun Run In Its Third Year

Sunday 15th April sees the return of the Marnhull 12K and fun run. Now in its third year, the race which is organised by St Gregory's Primary School in Marnhull attracts many professional running enthusiasts across Dorset and falls between the Brighton and London marathons.

The race will start at 10.30am in the centre of the village and runners will follow the same route around through Todber and Fifehead Magdalen, before returning to Marnhull.

Refreshments including a BBQ will be provided by the PTFA at the finishing post in the school field. Some fantastic prizes are being awarded across a variety of categories.

The fun run will also take place as before and this year there will be a choice of two distances, half or full mile. Adults are also being encouraged to enter. Both events have had great support over the years with people in their hundreds turning up to watch and it is envisaged that this year will be just as popular. Funds raised from both events will go to the school's ICT system.

Ruth Readman, Race Director explains: "We are delighted to be organising the event again. It is now a firm fixture in the racing diary and we are hoping it will become a league race next year. It gets better every year and it is always wonderful seeing everyone enjoying themselves whilst raising necessary funds for the school. We are always so grateful to everyone who supports us, particularly our sponsors."

Headmistress of St Gregory's Mrs Field added, "I am so delighted that the Marnhull 12K is happening for another year. I am very grateful to all the parents involved in organising this fantastic event. It is clearly very popular and is a wonderful way of raising funds for our school.

Registration for entries on the day and number collection is in the school hall between 8.45 and 10.15am. Fees are £12 (affiliated), £14 (unaffiliated) and £2 extra for entry on the day. The fun run is £2.50 per runner which is non-refundable in the event of a child or adult unable to participate on the day.

If you would like to enter into the race or would like to find out more, please contact Race Director, Ruth Readman, ruthcollis@hotmail.co.uk. Application forms are available from Stur Fit, Rivers Meet Leisure Centre, Off Camber Blandford and St Gregory's school website and the office, www.stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk alternatively you can enter online via www.fullonsport.com

Churches Together

As I write, we are halfway through our series of Lent reflections and lunches organised by Churches Together held in the Methodist Church and Hall. It has been interesting and delightful to share our thoughts and ideas in the services and more informally over lunch. It has been particularly nice to be able to chat over the soup not only to members of the three churches but also to the many other people from the village who dropped in. Thanks to your generous donations, we expect to be able to send a useful amount to assist the plight of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Suriname lies just above the equator in South America so I don't suppose that the ladies of that small country who planned the Women's World Day of Prayer service for the 2nd March gave much thought to the possibility that a service may have to be cancelled because of snow! Sadly that is what happened here in Marnhull to the particular disappointment of everyone at Our Lady's Church who had worked to produce a service here. We have confidence that it won't happen again next year!

Our next opportunity to think about and support Christian work throughout the world is Christian Aid week beginning on 14th May. We shall be kicking off the week with a coffee morning in the Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 12th May beginning at 10:30am. Please make a note in your diary to join us.

The Aid sector has come under fire lately, and all aid organisations are looking carefully at the way they carry out their work. But people in need are still there – and in many places their need is still desperate. What can we in Marnhull do? An opportunity will present itself in May, to coincide with Christian Aid Week. Churches Together in Marnhull are organising a BIG COFFEE MORNING, together with a SILENT AUCTION. You can help in two ways:

Note the date and venue: Saturday May 12th at the Methodist Hall

Look out those items you could contribute to the auction. Unwanted heirlooms… good quality items of any sort, provided they are portable, so that you could bring them and the buyer can carry them away. (NB If you would like to auction a 'promise' – something you would offer to do for the successful bidder – that too would be appreciated.)

Full details in next month's Messenger, but the hunt for lots of lots is now on!

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:

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
13 July	- Our Lady's Church	- Rev Fr Martin Budge

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

We have been really busy at St Gregory's lately, from raising money to experimenting. Year 2 children in Owls class decided to raise money for Water Aid as a result of their learning about Malawi.

They held a cake sale, which was very successful because they wrote fantastic persuasive letters to persuade everyone to support it and raised £96.55.

Our class mascots are continuing with their travels around the world and we have pictures of the Owl in Ethiopia.

As part of British Science Week, the school took part in a Science Day, supported by our expert scientist governors. There was a whole school investigation into finding out which class was the coolest, by observing some visiting penguins, who were trapped in ice.

We discovered if you want to cool down head to Hedgehog's class. Some classes made slime, others made explosions, there was even a puppet show, by Foxes. The ocean was put into a bottle in Hedgehogs and towers were made out of spaghetti and marshmallows in Badgers.

Squirrels reported on their enamel (egg shell) investigation during a celebration assembly, with the parents, which ended the fantastic day.

Here are some quotes from the day:

"Science Day was fantastic because we got to make cornflour slime"

"I enjoyed the skittle experiment and how the patterns were made"

"I enjoyed a day of investigating and making experiments"

Year 2 children making slime

We still have many exciting things planned for the remainder of the term with World Book Day taking place during the last week of term as we were unable to celebrate it earlier in the month due to the snow.

The School Council are busy planning lots of fun activities for Sports Relief Week and on the Friday children will be able to come to school dressed up as their favourite hero or wear their own sporting clothes.

Best wishes from everyone at St Gregory's

St. Mary's Catholic School

We have had a busy few weeks at St Mary's! Year 1 and 2 were lucky enough to visit the SafeWise Centre in Weymouth this week. We were greeted by Gareth who taught us all sorts of important and interesting things! We started the day by learning about Frances the Firefly and her naughty friend Cocky Roach, who encouraged her to play with matches, with disastrous results. We learnt that we should never play with matches or lighters. We thought about how we can stay fit and healthy, took part in Fire Fighter Nigel's daily dance workout and learnt about how much sugar we should be eating and where sugar hides! After that, we looked around the 'house' and spotted all the possible hazards. Although it was exciting to see the smoke rising from some of the hazards, we learnt why we shouldn't do things like leave our Kindles charging on our beds! In the afternoon we took part in a 'Strictly Come Dancing' Competition.... we showed off our best moves and when we heard the alarm we had to STOP, DROP and ROLL! The judged awarded some very high marks! It was a fantastic and informative trip and one we highly recommend you do to!

St Mary's have been busy in a variety of sporting events! On Wednesday 14th March, eight children from Year 5/6 attended the Gillingham Family Hockey festival. The team played against Mere and St Mary's the Virgin drawing 0 – 0. They beat Bourton and Motcombe 2 – 0. This meant that they won their section. They then competed in the semi-finals against St Gregory's and beat them 3 – 0. They were then into the final of the competition against Mere who they had played before. They went in with high hopes and fought really hard, but lost one goal quite early on in the match. Unfortunately, despite several attempts at goal, they didn't manage to get the ball in. Although they were bitterly disappointed at not coming back with the cup, they should be so pleased with their performance coming 2nd out of 10 teams. On Thursday 15th March, five children attended a new Aquathlon event at St Mary's School, Shaftesbury. This involved swimming 50m and running 1km. All the children enjoyed the event and found the new challenge exciting.

Year 3/4 also had their ukulele concert this week. This was the culmination of a ten week Musicianship Programme run by The Dorset Music Service. The class enjoyed performing several numbers, including their own composition called 'Philias Fogg and Passepartout', to the rest of the school, parents and grandparents. The audience were impressed by the skills learnt in such a short time!

World Book day saw a host of characters arrive at St Mary's! We had everyone from Harry Potter to The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The children entered a poster competition to advertise their favourite book. The winners won a book of their own!

The whole school are looking forward to our Easter Bingo on Friday 23rd March. Our 'Mad March Hair' day was a huge success with children bringing in lots of wine and chocolate prizes. All welcome to join us. Eyes down at 5:00pm!

Our new Parent and Toddler group, Mini Explorers, is going well! The group is led by Mrs Ellie Myatt, our EYFS teacher and is an opportunity for parents to meet together, working with their children on a range of activities both inside and out. The sessions run on a Tuesday morning from 9:30am – 11:00am and are free! The group is 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

St Mary's Explorer's have been busy this month thinking about what they would like to do when they grow up. It's been great seeing them test drive a few professions in their role play.

We set up a baby clinic and the children took on the role of doctor telling parents how to look after their babies. The children were able to give lots of advice like what to feed baby, what to dress baby in and how to make baby laugh! They also enjoyed weighing and measuring their baby dolls. Some of the children worked hard answering the telephone and greeting patients. They practised their mark making skills taking telephone messages and filling out appointment cards.

Next we set sail and learnt all about lifeboat crews. We were lucky to have a visitor in from the RNLI who told us all about lifeboat crews and lifeguards. He also taught us about beach safety so we will all be safe at the seaside when the sun comes out.

This week we have begun looking at the story 'What the Ladybird Heard!' This is a funny, rhyming story set on a farm. It's great to read aloud to children as they love joining in with the animal noises and rhyming phrases. The children have had great fun retelling the story and dressing up as the police officers that feature in the book. They had great fun arresting the teachers, thankfully they were very smiley police officers!

The weather finally warmed up this week and we seized the opportunity to stroll out on a welly walk to the nature area. The children were delighted as we spotted daffodils, catkins, leaf buds and even blossom. When we reached the paddock we stood still and quiet to listen to the beautiful bird song. Finally we enjoyed a game of hide and seek practicing our counting skills! We are looking forward to see if we get some frog spawn in our pond this year.

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

Here at Jungle Hut we have a busy few months ahead following on from our introduction of natural learning. Ofsted have really emphasised the natural learning method which I'm pleased to say we will be following here at Jungle Hut. We are looking to implement this gradually over the next few months and I'm happy to say staff and parents have all welcomed the changes. Changes made so far have seen our plastic tea set replaced with china, the children now tell me they are an adult with a proper cup! Our reading corner chairs have been replaced with logs, which I must say the children absolutely love.

The children have been busy celebrating Chinese New Year and had countless fun making colourful dragon masks and lanterns. The children enjoyed hearing and seeing about different cultures and celebrations. They particularly enjoyed making and sampling spring rolls and stir-fry's for snack time.

Outside the children have had so much fun making their own bonfire from the resources provided, its lovely hearing their imagination and seeing them work together to achieve an end result. We've enjoyed sitting around our bonfire pit having our hot chocolate and "toasted" marshmallows!

British values is a major part of the children's learning here at the Jungle Hut and we promote this by various activities throughout the day. We have our tree of kindness where children learn about our golden rules, which has had a really positive impact at the pre-school.

I would like to thank everyone who kindly donated prizes for our Bingo, we had a fantastic selection and resulted in us in having such a successful evening raising £470. I would also like to say a big thank and to all those who came along and supported us on the evening. All money raised will be spent on resources for the children at the pre-school which we are very grateful for.

As mentioned previously we have our open afternoon happening on Friday 6 April from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to come and meet the team and have a look around the pre-school. We have lots of exciting activities planned for all children visiting as well as refreshments.

If you are unable to join us at our open afternoon then please do contact us on 01258 820096 or email us at thejunglehutpreschool@hotmail.com where I will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

Dog Owners On The Look-Out For Alabama Rot

Alabama rot is a disease that causes skin and kidney damage in dogs. Dorset is one of the counties with the highest number of confirmed cases and sadly 80% of cases die from the disease. Scientists still do not know the cause. There is no vaccination to protect against the disease and no treatment.

Investigators suspect there is a link to walking in muddy, woodland areas or areas with running or standing water, particularly between November and April. Washing your dog, in particular feet and legs after a walk to remove any mud, is a sensible precaution to help prevent your dog from catching the disease.

Local veterinary practices including Stalbridge & Marnhull Veterinary Surgery and Friar's Moor have recently seen several suspected cases of Alabama Rot and are advising dog owners to be particularly vigilant in checking their dogs for the following clinical signs:

Skin – including open sores on the feet, legs, lower body and around and inside the mouth. Also if your dog shows unusual lethargy, not drinking or drinking excessively, vomiting and diarrhoea – these are also signs of kidney problems which could be caused by Alabama Rot.

Please remember… whilst Alabama Rot is a horrible disease, it is very rare, and we encourage you to continue exercising your dog.

Dr David J. Scott BVM&S MRCVS, Stalbridge and Marnhull Veterinary Surgery

April Events at Springhead

Tuesday 17 April, Open Garden, 10-5, with stalls and café serving refreshments and light lunches. Admission £3.50, under 16 and Friends of Springhead free. Dogs on leads welcome and assisted wheelchair access.

On the same day, between 10-1 award winning photographer and writer Edward Parker will be running a course on garden photography. This is suitable for people of all abilities using any type of camera. The idea is to demonstrate when and how to get the very best out of your camera and explain the basic principles needed. During the course, you will be shown how to change the settings on your camera to improve the results. For example, the lens zoom settings are particularly important.

It is possible to get excellent images using natural light with almost any sort of camera with a bit of tuition. In many ways, compact cameras are as good as DSLR's for general photography.

A lot of the success of general photography relies on understanding a little about composition and the use of foreground, background and lighting, all of which are equally relevant irrespective of the type of camera used. A tripod and reflectors will be available for participants on the day but do bring your own along too if you have one. Outdoor shoes and a coat are also recommended

£25 per person. To book contact: The Springhead Trust Ltd, Fontmell Magna, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0NU

Tel: 01747 811853
Email: info@springheadtrust.org.uk
www.springheadtrust.org.uk

Suspicious Vehicle Alert

Dorset Police Rural Crime Team would like you to be aware of the following suspicious vehicle.

The vehicle is a 2007 registered white Ford Transit Tipper K57ZL

This vehicle has been seen in suspicious circumstances in various rural locations today and it is believed to be involved in rural theft.

Trading Standards

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To lend money lawfully you have to be authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). People who lend money without being FCA authorised are breaking the law. They are known as loan sharks.

Loan sharks often work from home and start out friendly, but their behaviour changes when

payments are missed. Few advertise; they are often heard of by word of mouth. Often little or no paperwork is provided and they will refuse to tell you how much you owe, how long you will be

paying off the debt, or what the interest rate is. Many loan sharks will increase the debt and add additional amounts and take items as security including passports, bank cards or benefit cards.

They might also resort to intimidation, threats and violence. If you have borrowed from a loan shark you have not committed a crime, they have.

If a loan shark threatens you or acts in a violent way, contact the police straight away.

The England Illegal Money Lending Team work in Dorset to tackle loan sharks and support people affected by illegal money lending, on behalf of Dorset County Council Trading Standards Service.

Anyone can safely report a loan shark by calling 0300 555 2222, or by visiting www.stoploansharks.co.uk

Looking For A Job?

Marnhull's very own Atom Club have teamed up with one of Dorset's leading recruitment companies "Rubicon Recruitment Group", based in Poole, to help us rural folk find great career opportunities.

The agency have been working hard to secure hundreds of roles all across North Dorset, covering various industries.

Their team have already run some trial registration days at the Dorset Science & Technology Centre in Sturminster Newton and they've proved a huge success.

Every Thursday from 5th April, the team will be at the centre from 10-12. Come along and see what job opportunities there are for you.

Booking not essential but appreciated to ensure adequate staffing levels: www.atom.club/booking

Every Thursday from 5th April
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For more information on Rubicon, visit: www.rubiconpeople.co.uk

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Sturminster Newton Floral Group

Sturminster Newton Floral group,will be holding a demonstration in the Stour Hall , The Exchange titled " Inspirations ", our demonstrator will be Elizabeth Pelley ,this will be on Wednesday the 11th April starting at 7 30 pm , all are very welcome , visitors are £6 on the door, please contact Sturminster Newton 01258 473902 or 01258 472024 for information if required.

Sue Matthews , Sturminster Newton Floral group

Dorset Wildlife Trust

North Dorset April Event

Plants have been used for health and healing for many centuries and modern science has helped confirm their efficacy for many uses. Julie Wood is a Dorset based Medicinal Herbalist and a member of the National Institute of Herbal Medicine. She has worked for Neil's Yard Remedies and has also helped Shaftesbury Abbey's Director of Gardening to expand their Anglo Saxon herb garden to include some 100 varieties.

On Wednesday 18th April Julie will give an illustrated talk on 'Herbal Remedies – Healing with Plants' at Fontmell Magna Village Hall (SP7 0PF) at 7.30pm. Entry is £2 (to include refreshments) and there is no charge for children under 16.

Later in the summer Julie will also give a guided walk of Shaftesbury Abbey Gardens. This event, on Thursday 12th July at 6.30pm, will include drinks and nibbles in the £10 cost. Numbers are strictly limited so please contact Roy Davies on 01258 880 699 to book.

Child Okeford Flower Arranging Club

Our practical workshop, 'Tiny Delights', on Tuesday 17th April will give you a chance to try your hand at small scale flower arranging. The meeting will be held at Child Okeford Village Hall and starts at 2.15pm. All welcome.

For further details please contact Sue Brown 01258 863775

Child Okeford Village Hall Film Night

Friday 27th April at 7.30pm

'Murder on the Orient Express' (12A)

Cast includes Kenneth Branagh, Penélope Cruz,

Judi Dench, Derek Jacobi,

Michelle Pfeiffer and Olivia Colman.

Tickets £5 at the door or in advance on 01258 860518.

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

Sturminster Community Chest

Open from Easter Saturday, 31st March, Sturminster's new shop 'Community Chest' is a fresh way to find a bargain, tap into community initiatives, find tourist information and much more, all while helping to fund improvements in the town.

Though supported by traders, the Town Council and SturQuest Enterprises, 'Community Chest' stands alone as a democratically-run Community Benefit Society and all profits go back into enhancing and enlivening the town. In a challenging fiscal environment this community/charity shop fusion will help Sturminster and its surrounds be a great place to live, work and visit. Early projects will include Sturminster in Bloom and improved access for disabled but come along and tell the team what you think is needed – 'Community Chest' is open for ideas!

Situated opposite the Museum in Market Cross, it will be open 6 days a week. There will be monthly raffles, community updates and an opportunity to participate in the initiative through share options. It's a shop for the community by the community so pop in to find out how you can be a part of it. Do bring along any good quality second-hand items to donate (sorry, no electricals) and if you have time to volunteer to help in any way, contact Mick Woods 07968 213144 or pop into the shop for a chat.

Jane Williams 01258 475567

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Crossword and Sudoku Answers

ACROSS
1. Carver 4. Pecan 6. Tor 7. Cribbage 8. Neep 11. Iliad 13. Ibex 15. Stolen 16. Assegai 17. Cast 19. Bindi 21. Tilt 24. Bowsprit 25. IOW 26. Brass 27. Yankee

DOWN
1. Crete 2. Vermicelli 3. Rabbi 4. Plaid 5. Cherub 6. Tarn 9. Extra 10. Pilot 12. Abyssinian 13. Inert 14. Email 18. Serbia 19. Bowls 20. Nippy 22. Indie 23. Thaw

Medium

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

Hard

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

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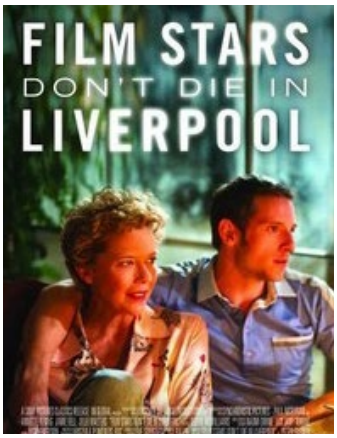

Based on Peter Turner's memoir, the film follows the playful but passionate relationship between Turner (Jamie Bell) and the eccentric Academy Award winning actress Gloria Grahame (Annette Bening) in 1978 Liverpool.

What starts as a vibrant affair between a legendary femme fatale and her young lover quickly grows into a deeper relationship. Their passion and lust for life is tested to the limits by events beyond their control.

In Marnhull Village Hall
Tuesday 24th April at 7.30pm
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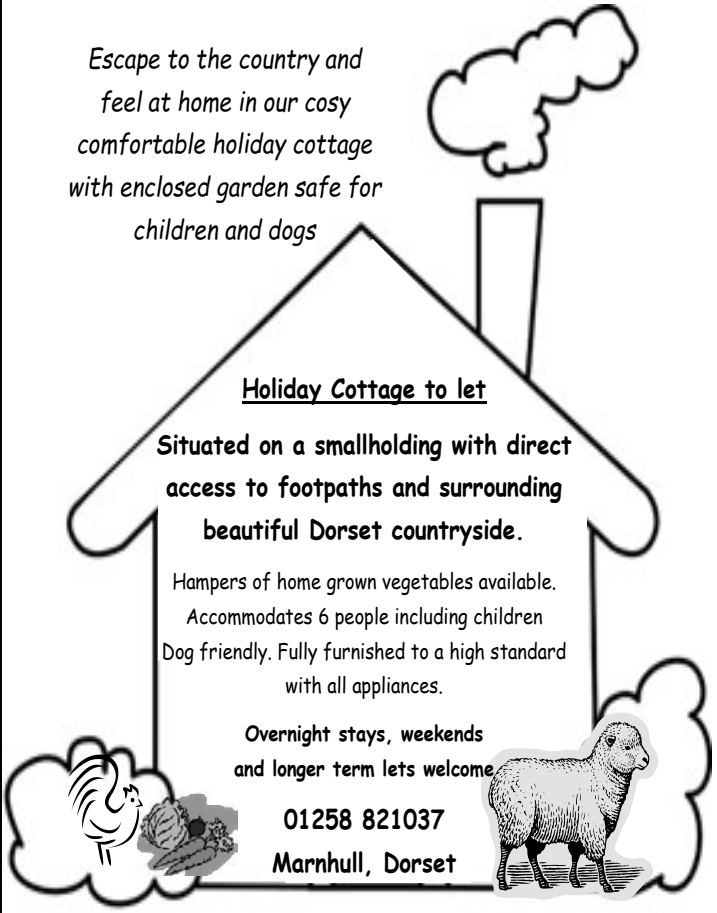

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If you would like to help and support Mindful, or for more information, contact:

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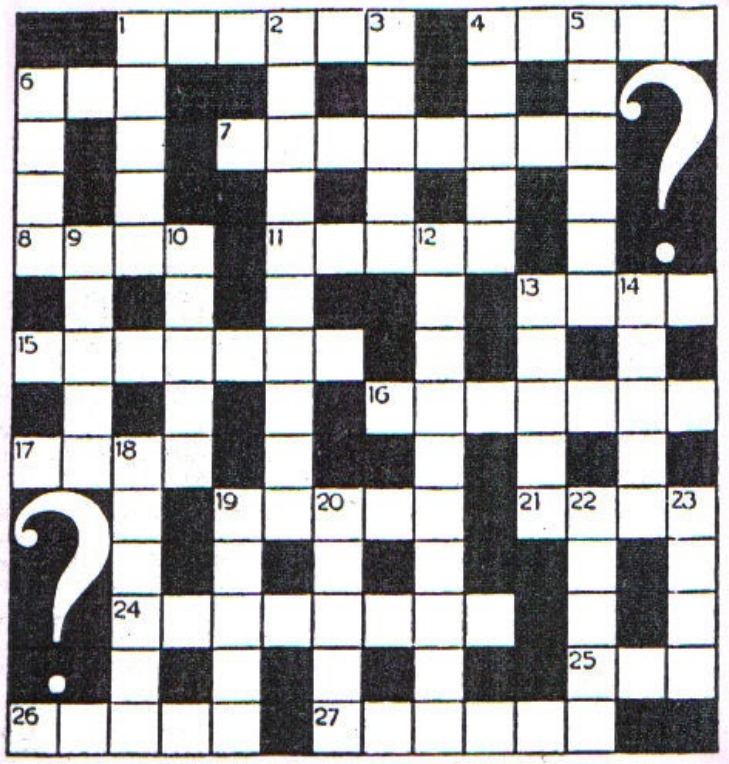
(email snutbeem@gmail.com)



Hard Difficulty

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

Medium Difficulty

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

Sturminster Choral Society Sings Elijah

Sturminster Choral Society will be performing Mendelssohn's great oratorio, Elijah, on Saturday 12th May at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Church, Sturminster Newton.

The choral work was first performed in 1846 at the Birmingham Festival where it was conducted by the composer himself and sung in English. It is written for chorus and four vocal soloists and demonstrates Mendelssohn's genius as an early Romantic composer.

The Choral Society is delighted to be joined by Susan Coates (soprano), Charlotte Collier (alto), Oliver Hooper (tenor) and Pauls Putnins (bass-baritone) for the performance, which will be conducted by Annemarie Lees and accompanied by Sam Hanson (organ).

Tickets £10 on the door (children under 16 free).

ACROSS

1) Principle chair with arms in a set of dining chairs. (6)
4) Small pinkish brown nut resembling a walnut. (5)
6) A hill or rocky peak. (3)
7) Game in which someone may get 'one for his nob'. (8)
8) In Scotland a turnip. (4)
11) Greek epic poem attributed to Homer set during the siege of Troy. (5)
13) Wild mountain goat of Eurasia and North Africa. (4)
15) Rich German fruit and nut loaf. (7)
16) Slender iron tipped hardwood spear used chiefly by South African people. (7)
17) Shape metal or other material by pouring it into a mould while molten. (4)
19) Decorative mark worn in the middle of the forehead by Indian women. (5)
21) In jousting to thrust with a lance. (4)
24) Spar running out from a ship's bowto which the forestays are attached. (8)
25) Britain's smallest county (acronym). (3)
26) Alloy of copper and zinc. (5)
27) A bet on four horses to win or be placed in different races. (6)

DOWN

1) Largest of the Greek islands. (5)
2) A type of pasta whose name translates as 'little worms'. (10)
3) In Judaism a teacher of the Torah. (5)
4) Chequered or tartan twilled cloth. (5)
5) winged angelic being often depicted as a chubby child. (6)
6) Small mountain lake. (4)
9) In cricket a run scored other than from a hit with the bat. (5)
10) Person with local knowledge qualified to take charge of a ship entering or leaving a harbour. (5)
12) Former name of an inhabitant of Ethiopia. (10)
13) Description of a gas that forms compounds with difficulty or not at all. (5)
14) System of sending messages from one computer to another. (5)
18) Balkan country with its capital at Belgrade. (6)
19) Game in which there are flat green and crown varieties. (5)
20) Nickname for a waitress in a Lyons tea house. (5)
22) Pop group or record label not affiliated to a major record company. (5)
23) John, actor famous for playing Morse on TV. (4)

All puzzle answers on page 28

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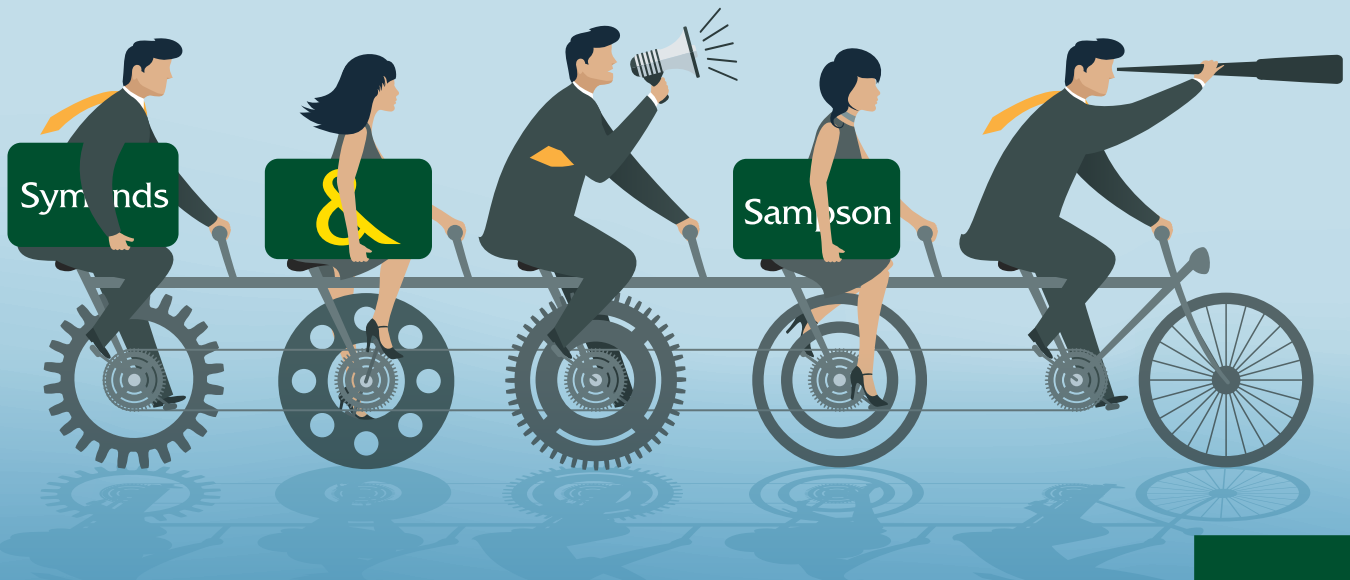

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