

THE MARNHULL MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2024 | ISSUE 140

www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk

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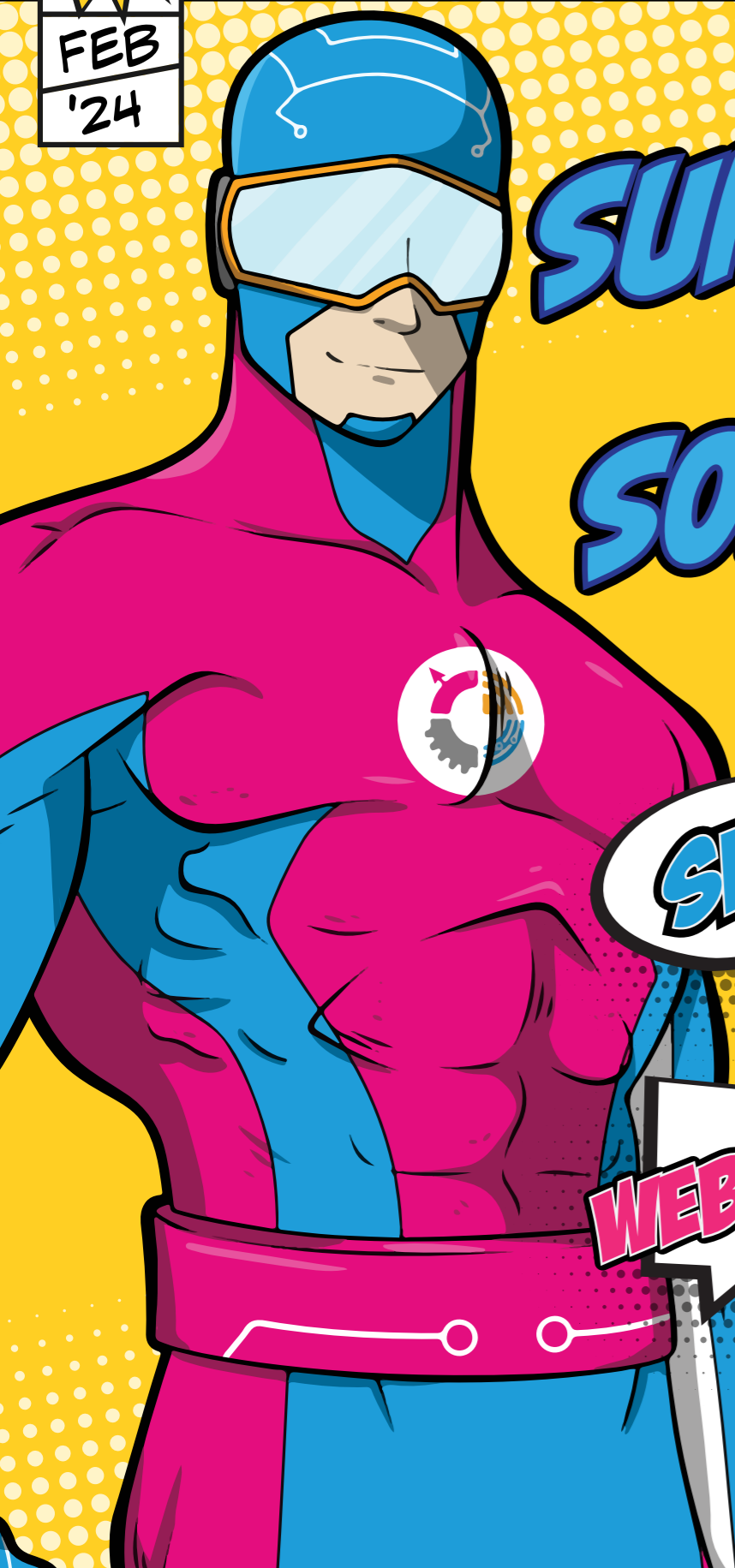
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#5
FEB
'24



SUPERHERO WEB SOLUTIONS

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WWW.DORSET.TECH

DISCOUNTED RATE FOR MARNHULL RESIDENTS

WELCOME TO YOUR
MARNHULL MESSENGER

CHRIS RYU
Messenger Editor



DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

MID-DAY 14th February

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

Happy New Year! Welcome back to the new look Messenger!

COLUMNISTS WANTED

As I haven't yet been replaced, I'm on a mission to kick the Messenger up a gear this year. We've had a design re-refresh over the festive period and there's some more improvements coming soon. The website needs some TLC too so I'm looking for a quiet couple of weekends to do something I've had planned for a while now.

NEW POLICY FOR EVENT ADVERTS

We've always done our best to fit in whatever content you send us in whatever format, but print/paper costs are much higher now and space is limited, so we've decided to change our policy on adverts for events. You can still have a free listing in the diary and a free text based article, but from the next issue, if you would like an image based advert placed in the Messenger you will need to pre-pay for the space on our website. There is an exception for organisations in the village. We believe this change will either free up valuable space for articles, or will help cover our print costs.

NEW COLUMNISTS

We want to increase the amount of high quality content and keep you coming back for more, so we've begun adding regular columnists. We hope you enjoy them - let me have your feedback.

ADVERTISE HERE

It's that time of year when the order books finally reopen for next year's advertising. Get in there quickly to secure your space. We have a strict policy so advertising space is limited. If you'd like to advertise your organisation, please contact Rosie on the details to the right of this text.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS INTO A LIVE CALENDAR

On the messenger website and they'll be added to the printed automatically:
www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk

VILLAGE HELP

NORCAT - Bookings 10am - 3pm - 01258 472164
Dial-a-Ride - Major & Immediate Emergencies Only - 07900 261182
Marnhull Village Care Car Service:
Ann Davis-Penson - tel: 07434 638485 or 01258 820456.
This is offered for door to door transport for the elderly, disabled and unemployed for essential trips with a set scale of modest donations.

CONTACT DETAILS

These contact details are to be used in relation to the publication of the Marnhull Messenger ONLY

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MARNHULL MESSENGER WEBSITE

Who Do I Contact?

Any amendments or proposals for new pages in the messenger website should be made to:
Chris Ryu Email: editor@marnhullmessenger.org.uk

MARNHULL MESSENGER DELIVERIES

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

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

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

Ian Gall – Chairman, The Marnhull Messenger Steering Group.

DISCLAIMER

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

This publication is provided for your use "as is" without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied; inclusion of an advertisement for an event or service does not imply that they are endorsed by the Marnhull Messenger. The Marnhull Messenger will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the content is socially and morally acceptable.

PRIVACY POLICY

The Marnhull Messenger respects the privacy of organisations and persons who submit information for publication. Personal details, including photographs, will only be published if approved and submitted by organisations or individuals. No personal details will be given out or sold to any third parties, whether individuals, organisations or companies.

ANNUAL DIARY 2024 *All events are held at the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.*

February

- 1st Thursday**
10:00 - Craft Club @ Methodist Hall
- 2nd Friday**
12:00 - Luncheon Club
19:00 - Marnhull Players Panto
- 3rd Saturday**
14:00 - Marnhull Players Panto
19:00 - Marnhull Players Panto
20:30 - Deano @ British Legion
- 4th Sunday**
14:00 - Marnhull Players Panto
- 5th Monday**
09:30 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion
14:00 - Table Tennis - Monday
- 6th Tuesday**
16:00 - Bridge Club @ Methodist Hall
- 7th Wednesday**
11:15 - Fitsteps dance and exercise class
14:00 - Table Tennis
18:30 - Community Choir
19:00 - Pound Fitness @ British
- 9th Friday**
10:00 - Blackmore Vale Art Group
- 10th Saturday**
10:00 - Repair Café @ Marnhull Hub
20:30 - Dale Fender Band @ British Legion
- 12th Monday**
09:30 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion
14:00 - Table Tennis
- 13th Tuesday**
14:00 Bridge Club @ Methodist Hall
19:30 Marnhull Garden Club AGM
- 14th Wednesday**
11:15 - Fitsteps dance & exercise class
14:00 - Table Tennis
14:30 - Tea with Friends
18:30 - Community Choir
19:00 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion
- 16th Friday**
00:00 - Churches Together Lent Talks
10:00 - Marnhull Community Café
- 17th Saturday**
10:00 - Repair Café @ Marnhull Hub
20:30 - Dr Strange brew @ British Legion
- 19th Monday**
09:30 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion
14:00 - Table Tennis - Monday
19:15 - Marnhull Music Society
- 20th Tuesday**
14:00 - Bridge Club @ Methodist Hall
- 21st Wednesday**
11:15 - Fitsteps dance and exercise class
14:00 - Table Tennis
18:30 - Community Choir
19:00 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion
- 23rd Thursday**
10:30 - Figure Drawing

- 24th Friday**
10:00 - Repair Café @ Marnhull Hub
20:30 - The Originals @ British Legion
- 26th Sunday**
09:30 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion
14:00 - Table Tennis
- 27th Monday**
14:00 - Bridge Club @ Methodist Hall
- 28th Tuesday**
11:15 - Fitsteps dance & exercise class
14:00 - Table Tennis
18:30 - Community Choir

March

- 1st Friday**
12:00 - Luncheon Club
- 2nd Saturday**
10:00 - Repair Cafe @ Marnhull Hub
20:30 - Barry Paul - Elvis Tribute @ British Legion
- 4th Monday**
9:30 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion
14:00 - Table Tennis
19:00 - Lynne's Bingo @ British Legion
- 5th Tuesday**
14:00 - Bridge Club @ Methodist Hall
- 6th Wednesday**
11:15 - Fitsteps Dance and Exercise Class
14:00 - Table Tennis
18:30 - Community Choir
19:00 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion
- 7th Thursday**
10:00 - Craft Club @ Methodist Church
19:30 - Artsreach Hells Bells
- 8th Friday**
10:00 - Blackmore Vale Art Group
19:00 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion
- 9th Saturday**
10:00 - Repair Cafe @ Marnhull hub
19:00 - St Greg's Primary school 150th Anniversary Quiz @ St Gregory's Primary School
20:30 - Bill Shannon, Soul and Motown @ British Legion

- 11th Monday**
9:30 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion
14:00 - Table Tennis
- 12th Tuesday**
14:00 - Bridge Club @ Methodist Hall
19:00 - Marnhull Garden Club
- 13th Wednesday**
11:15 - Fitsteps Dance and Exercise Class
14:00 - Table Tennis
14:30 - Tea with Friends @ Methodist Hall
18:30 - Communtiy Choir
19:00 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion
- 15th Friday**
10:00 - Marnhull Community Cafe
- 16th Saturday**
9:30 - Jungle Hut Pre School Jumble Sale @ St Gregory's primary school
10:00 - The Marnhull Hub and Repair Café @ Marnhull Hub
20:30 - The Rebbels @ British Legion Club
- 18th Monday**
9:30 - Pound Fitness@British Legion Club
14:00 - Table Tennis
19:00 - Lynne's Bingo @ British Legion Club
19:15 - Marnhull Music Society
- 19th Tuesday**
14:00 - Bridge Club @ Methodist Hall
- 20th Wednesday**
11:15 - Fitsteps dance and exercise class
14:00 - Table Tennis
18:30 - Community Choir
19:00 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion Club
- 22nd Friday**
10:30 - Figure Drawing
- 23rd Saturday**
10:00 - The Marnhull Hub and Repair Café @ Marnhull Hub
- 25th Monday**
9:30 - Pound Fitness @ British Legion Club
14:00 - Table Tennis



FROM THE SURGERIES

2023 PATIENT SURVEY REPORT

The Patient Participation Group (PPG), on behalf of the Blackmore Vale Partnership holds a Patient Survey every two years.

The first part asks the same questions each time about the appointments system and satisfaction with the process and outcome for patients.

The second half seeks to find out what matters to patients, to offer assistance with accessing online information & support and asking about those who are carers.

The survey was made available on the Practice website, links were sent by text to around 16,000 patients and about 150 paper surveys were completed during the Covid & Flu clinics – in all there were 2575 responses.

The majority were in the 55-74 age bracket, but there were a few aged 18 and over 85. 360 identified as carers.

THE HEADLINES:

- 47% increase in the use of Klinik, (over eConsult in 2021)
- 55 % decrease in the use of the telephone.

We asked for comments about the process of contacting the Practice, the response and outcome for the individual. The majority were positive and appreciative - many mentioning the speed of response after making a Klinik (online) application. There was lots of praise for staff, particularly reception, or Patient Services staff.

Overall 73% were satisfied in the process of contacting the Practice and the outcome. (70% 2021) 17% were partly satisfied and of those, many were awaiting the next part of their treatment or consultation, but in quite a few cases, their issue was resolved, but not by a GP – so there's still the sense amongst quite a few that only GP's can advise and treat – which isn't the case.

Of the 10% who were not satisfied, it was clear that issues with Klinik, or perceived issues with Klinik, were the main reason. It's important to remember, Klinik is only one way of contacting the Practice. If you have the internet or a smartphone, then you might find it better. If you don't, or prefer to telephone or come into reception, then that is absolutely fine.

In whatever way you contact the Practice, your request will be entered on the Klinik system to ensure a consistent approach for all patients and that you receive the right care, from the right person, at the right time.

This is one reason for no longer being able to book an appointment directly online. This new system ensures that you will be responded to by an appropriate person in a timely way. As the survey has highlighted, the increased use of Klinik has decreased the use of the telephone, which means that if you do 'phone, your call will be answered more quickly than before.

The Practice is contracted to provide a service between 8am and 18:30 Monday to Friday. This is why Klinik is not available outside these hours. The Practice is working with the suppliers of the Klinik software to provide a more informative message when the system is closed. As before any urgent out of hours issue should be addressed by contacting 111 either online or by 'phone, or if life threatening, then call 999.

Other comments were about not hearing back about blood test results. The Practice submits about 500 blood tests every week (there could be more than 5 samples as part of the blood test).

If there are issues with a test result, the patient will be contacted with advice about what to do next. Unfortunately, there simply isn't the staff capacity to contact every patient whose test is normal or normal for them.

Having access to your patient record, either through the website or on the NHS app, allows you to check these results. You can see the records of your appointments, including those at hospital and order your prescription medications.

If you don't have this facility, contact the Practice and they can set it up SystmOnline for you. The NHS app can be downloaded and set up by yourself.

We also asked what concerns people had about their health and wellbeing – and what mattered to them. Here, the majority talked about having annual health checks, and there were a great many who mention the menopause. Also continuity of care was a popular theme.

With regard to health checks, if you have a long term condition, this will be part of your care.

For those who would just like to be reassured that all is well, it is completely understandable and a good idea. However, in common with the rest of GP Practices up and down the land, staffing issues and the pressure of work means that there simply isn't the capacity to do this, along with the extra blood tests etc that would be involved.

There are local organisations like LiveWell Dorset who carry out free health checks and if you are aged 40 to 74, have not had an NHS Health Check in the last 5 years and do not have a pre-existing condition such as heart disease, diabetes or kidney disease or had a stroke, you may be eligible to have a health check.

Contact 0800 840 1628 or www.livewelldorset.co.uk/healthcare-professionals/nhs-health-checks/ There is a new local menopause support group offering support, guidance & education through perimenopause & menopause. Their website is <https://www.dorsetmenopausesupport.co.uk/>.

Continuity of Care was also raised by many. Where possible the Practice tries to do this, particularly with non-urgent ongoing care, as it benefits both patients and clinicians. However with 26,600 patients and insufficient staff, it is not always feasible for every patient to see their clinician of choice.

Continuity of care is an approach to ensure that the patient centred care team is cooperatively involved in ongoing healthcare management towards a shared goal.

This may mean that the Practice will work with other professionals to ensure your care is as smooth as possible and it might be that another person meets with you rather than your registered GP.


This can have its benefits where another perspective is provided on the management plan agreed with you. As a Practice, we would like to be able to provide a stronger response however we are short of GPs that are able to manage a patient list. We will continue to work towards increasing the GP portfolio within the Practice.

There are almost 90 pages of comments which the Practice is going through and in amongst those are many comments and suggestions which will help patients and the Practice, so thank you again to those who took part.

FOR VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS
www.marnhullvillagehall.org.uk
 and click on 'Book the Village Hall'
 For general enquiries, email:
bookings@marnhullvillagehall.org.uk
 or if unable to access the internet, phone **07376 911878**
 (9 to 5 weekdays)

**SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS INTO
A LIVE CALENDAR**

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

Taking the Environment Around Marnhull Seriously

Fancy getting out into the open air? Well, a Green Team has been developing an exciting new project for you: a survey of the natural environment of the whole of Marnhull parish. Want to join in...?

To protect our environment, we should first know what we have. So this survey aims to identify and catalogue areas within the parish which are of importance for biodiversity.

These include hedgerows, woods, verges, 'wild' meadows and field margins, ponds, streams and marshes, and items such as bat- or bird-boxes, wild flower patches and insect hotels. Anything that supports, or could be adapted to support, our natural environment should be recorded.

We have divided the parish up into small survey areas - usually a quarter of an Ordnance Survey 1km grid square - and are busy preparing colour-coded sketch maps as survey tools.

We think an initial survey of each area can be achieved in a morning's or an afternoon's walk. The map accompanying this article shows the parish (in yellow) and the areas for which sketch maps are ready for you to use. We will produce the rest as quickly as we can!

The idea is that people taking part will visit each area and amend the sketch maps as appropriate, adding more detail where they can and noting places which will benefit from closer study later. At time of writing, these surveys can only be conducted from public rights of way. Permissions will be sought to access farmland where necessary on foot or by drone; but these are not yet in place.

Any help you can offer will be welcome. You can do a survey, or let us know if you have detailed knowledge of or a particular love for certain places. Either way please do get in touch, by emailing marnhullgreen@outlook.com or phoning (01258) 268714. If you would like to try a survey let us know which of the areas on the map you would like to tackle, and we will give you the sketch maps and some guidance notes. It might reassure you to know that you don't have to be a highly knowledgeable naturalist! Anything you can do will help. We look forward to hearing from you.

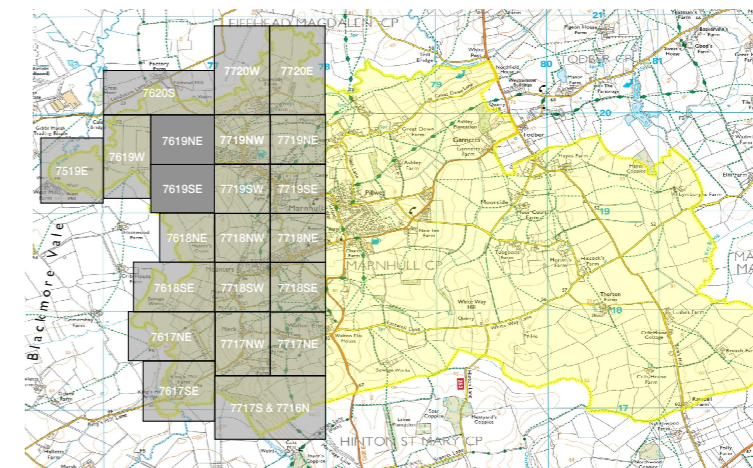
Among other things our survey will help inform the Neighbourhood Plan. Major development proposals for Marnhull are now being considered by the planning authorities. Whether you are for or against particular schemes, it is important - many of us would say critical - that any development should be as 'green' as possible, to protect and enhance our natural environment and help secure it for future generations.

Dorset Council have prepared three useful documents to guide the consideration of climate change in planning applications and to support decision-making until the new Dorset Council Local Plan is adopted. These documents will be of interest to anyone concerned about development in the parish. They are:

- interim guidance and a position statement addressing sustainable design and construction and planning for renewable energy schemes
- guidance on listed buildings and energy efficiency; and

- a sustainability checklist setting out questions for applicants: submitting the completed checklist as part of an application has been a requirement since 15 January.

You can find these documents at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/planning-for-climate-change>.



As promised in the last issue we now have the figures for the Remembrance period and they show a good return. Over the period the Branch collected £4,246, a very respectable amount for such a small village.

The money was almost equally split between door to door collectors and static boxes so well done to all concerned and all who contributed. The Branch Chairman and I will be attending the County Conference on Sunday the 21st January not the most exciting of excursions but this year we have been told we are to collect two awards for our Poppy Appeal efforts so that will make the day more interesting. I will report on the conference and the awards in the February edition. If you are struggling to remove that last mince pie from your waistline don't forget that we have two types of exercise classes down the Legion. If you are interested drop me an email.

There are seven skittle teams, two darts teams and a pool team running out of the Legion at the moment so life is pretty hectic moving furniture backwards and forwards to accommodate these events plus the Saturday entertainment and the occasional private party. Entry to non members on music nights is a modest £2 so check out the list below and give us a try.

Lyndy's bingo returns from its winter break on March 4th.

February Entertainment

- Sat 3rd – Deano
- Sat 10th – The Dale Fender Band
- Sat 17th – Dr Strange Brew
- Sat 24th – The Originals
- 2nd March – Elvis Tribute £5 on the door
- 4th March – Bingo 7pm



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STAYSAFE



A SAFE DIGITAL WORLD

CHRIS WALTON
Oak Digital Solutions

Welcome to my new monthly column designed to help you navigate the digital world safely. The digital age has revolutionised the way we connect, learn, and conduct our daily lives. However, along with the convenience and opportunities brought by the internet, there are also risks and threats lurking in the online world - from cybercrime to data breaches and privacy invasions.

Here are some tips and guidelines to help you navigate the online world safely:

- 1. Strong Passwords:** Protect your online accounts with strong passwords containing a mix of upper and lower-case letters, numbers, and special characters. Avoid using easily guessable information like birthdates or common words and don't use the same password for multiple accounts.
- 2. Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):** Enable 2FA whenever possible as an added layer of security. 2FA is a security system that requires two separate, distinct forms of identification in order to access something. The first factor is a password and the second commonly includes a text with a code sent to your smartphone, or biometrics using your fingerprint or face.
- 3. Regular Updates:** Ensure that your devices, including computers, smartphones, and tablets, have up-to-date software and security patches installed.
- 4. Security Software:** Use reputable antivirus and anti-malware software to protect against viruses, malware, and other online threats.
- 5. Be Cautious with Personal Information:** Be mindful of the information you share online. Avoid disclosing sensitive data like your address, phone number, or financial details unless necessary. Check the privacy settings on social media platforms.
- 6. Phishing Awareness:** Beware of phishing attempts where attackers try to trick you into revealing personal information by impersonating legitimate companies or entities. Always be sceptical of unsolicited emails, messages, or calls asking for sensitive data or urging immediate action even if they appear to come from friends or family members.

7. Secure Wi-Fi and Network Usage: Protect your home network with a strong password and encryption. Avoid using public Wi-Fi for sensitive activities like online banking or accessing confidential accounts unless through a secure VPN (Virtual Private Network).

8. Monitor Financial Statements and Accounts: Regularly review your bank statements, credit reports, and online accounts for any suspicious activity. Report any unauthorized transactions or unusual behaviour immediately.

9. Back Up Data Regularly: Back up your important files and data regularly to an external hard drive or a secure cloud storage service. This precaution can help you recover your data in case of ransomware attacks or device failure.

10. Trust Your Instincts: If something feels off or too good to be true online, trust your instincts. Verify sources, be cautious with links and downloads, and don't hesitate to double-check information or seek help if uncertain.

In conclusion, safeguarding yourself online requires a combination of caution, awareness, and proactive measures. By implementing these practices and staying informed about evolving online threats, you can navigate the digital landscape with greater confidence and security. Remember, your online safety is in your hands, and staying vigilant is key to a secure online experience.

ABOUT ME

I'm Chris Walton, I live in Marnhull and I can help with many of the problems that people experience with personal and home technology. I have over 35 years' experience teaching people of all ages and all skill levels to use a wide variety of technology and software both in the workplace and at home. I provide patient and friendly training carried out at your own pace, in your own home and at your convenience.

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COLUMNISTS WANTED

We're adding columnists this year. Do you know anyone interested in writing a column about their field of expertise?

Ideas; gardening, money saving, etc.

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email editor@marnhullmessenger.org.uk



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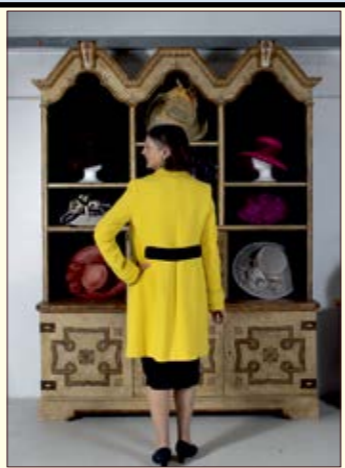
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DORSET CPRE

Unravelling a crisis: the state of rural affordable housing in England

The South West region is worst affected by an acute shortage of genuinely affordable and social housing. This is a key finding of a new report by CPRE, the countryside charity.

Rupert Hardy, Chair North Dorset CPRE said: "Unravelling a crisis: the state of rural affordable housing in England" sets out the causes and true extent of this problem and lays bare its impact on families and communities.

This is the real housing crisis. Action is needed, nationally and locally, to address this shortage and provide the truly affordable housing Dorset needs for a better future for local people."

CPRE's report reveals the impact of an overlooked rural housing crisis and shows how the next government can increase the supply of affordable homes.

Families are being driven out of the countryside by record house prices relative to wages, and a shortage of genuinely affordable homes, made worse by an increase in second homes and short-term lets. Communities and the countryside risk being drained of skills, economic activity and vital public services.

Rural house prices increased at almost twice the rate of those in urban areas in the five years to 2022. While the average cost of a home jumped 29% to £419,000, rural earnings increased by just 19% to an average of £25,600.

Rural homelessness is up 40% since 2018 in rural England. 300,000 people are waiting for social housing in rural England, a backlog that would take 89 years to clear at current rates of construction.

Dorset CPRE welcomes recent calls (for example by the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Sir Chris Whitty), for new planning and housing policies which do more to meet local housing needs of families and of young and older people, and key workers such as carers. Investment is also needed to improve the low energy efficiency of much local housing by retrofitting insulation and solar panels. Such action would help with the cost of living, address the climate emergency and benefit local employment and skills."

Peter Neal, a Dorset CPRE Vice-President and a Director of the Sherborne CLT said: "Dorset CPRE welcomes the work of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) to develop affordable homes, in partnership with local communities and landowners.

The Sherborne Community Land Trust is currently looking at several sites for the development of social housing for local people with a connection to the town. It is hoped that consultation on one of these sites will take place in the early part of next year."

More information:

More than 300,000 people are on waiting lists for social rented housing in rural England, an increase of just over 10% since 2018. At the current rate of construction, it would take 89 years for everyone on a waiting list to be offered a home.

Current planning policies allow for the building of new 'affordable' housing costing anything up to 80% of market value. This means that in many rural areas the 'affordable homes' being provided are often anything but.

Local authorities have not replaced social housing at the rate properties have been sold under the Right to Buy policy, leading to a chronic shortage of housing for people who need it most.

In Cornwall, where more than 15,000 families are on social housing waiting lists, the number of properties for short-term let at much higher prices than social rents, grew by 661% in the five years to 2021.

Half of the families on social housing waiting lists in South Lakeland could be accommodated in local properties available exclusively as holiday rentals, while Devon has seen 4,000 homes taken off the private rental market and 11,000 new short-term listings since 2016.

The government has legal powers to protect council housing purchased under the Right to Buy scheme from being sold off at market rates or as second homes. CPRE's research is the first published study to look at the overall coverage of these so-called 'Section 157' powers. CPRE found that these powers only apply to half of all rural parishes in England.

They exclude whole counties such as Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, and also large towns. There are several large towns, particularly places like Cirencester, Frome, Padstow, Sherborne and St Ives in Southwest England, where there is a particular lack of affordable housing.

The report contains a list of recommendations that CPRE believes will help to solve the severe housing crisis in the countryside. It includes calls for the next government to:

Ensure the term 'affordable housing' is redefined to directly link to average local incomes. Increase the minimum amount of genuinely affordable housing required by national planning policy and implement ambitious targets for the construction of social rented homes.

Support local communities to deliver small-scale developments of genuinely affordable housing and make it easier for councils to purchase land at a reasonable price, enabling the construction of social housing and vital infrastructure.

Introduce a register of second homes and short-term lets, with new powers for local authorities to levy additional council tax on second homes. Extend restrictions on the resale of 'affordable housing' to all parishes with fewer than 3,000 inhabitants to ensure properties continue to be used by local workers, not as second homes or holiday lets.

CPRE Chief Executive Roger Mortlock said: "Decades of inaction have led to an affordable housing crisis. Solutions exist and the next government must set and deliver ambitious targets for new, genuinely affordable and social rented rural housing.

Record house prices and huge waiting lists for social housing are driving people out of rural communities, contributing to soaring levels of often hidden rural homelessness. Urgent change is required to ensure we don't end up with rural communities that are pricing out the very people needed to keep them vibrant."

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Marnhull Flower Show

It's February and time to start planning what you're going to grow in the garden this year - and what you're going to enter in this year's Flower Show!

The Show will take place on Saturday 6th July at the Village Hall and Recreation Ground.

There are lots of different classes, not only for flowers, but also fruit and vegetables.

There are also several Village Garden Competitions: for the best wildlife friendly garden; the best planted container; and the best vegetable patch, allotment or vegetable garden.

There's even classes for your Vegetable Oddities, so now's the time to start leafing through those seed catalogues and deciding what you're going to grow.



Anyone can enter, just as long as your entry was grown within ten miles of Marnhull. Don't worry if you haven't entered before - it's fun and easy to do.

Why not start by entering the Novice Class, which is open to anyone who hasn't won a prize for their vegetables in a previous Marnhull Flower Show.

For those of you with artistic talents, you'll also find handicraft, art, cookery and photography classes, so there's something for everyone.

The photography class includes a category for "Sunrise/Sunset". There have been some fantastic photos on the Marnhull Village Facebook Page recently, which we very much hope you'll enter in the Show.

You will find more detailed information in the Flower Show Schedule which will be available throughout the village from May. In the meantime, we'll be sharing lots of information and hints and tips on the new Marnhull Flower Show Facebook page.

You can like or follow us by searching for Marnhull Flower Show on Facebook.

MARNHULL ENTERTAINS

Pink Floyd PULSE Concert



If you missed the chance to see Pink Floyd live in 1994, the next best thing is to watch their PULSE DVD on a big screen with surround sound. That's what we had at Marnhull Village Hall on Sunday 12th Nov, and it was a spectacular experience.

The DVD features the band performing their classic album The Dark Side of the Moon in its entirety, as well as other hits from their extensive catalogue. The concert was filmed at London's Earls Court, and the production quality is superb, with stunning visuals and effects.

The event at the village hall was well-attended with 35 people present providing a friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere. The audience was treated to a musical journey through the history and legacy of one of the most influential and innovative bands of all time. It was a memorable night for all Pink Floyd fans and music lovers alike. As a result Marnhull Entertains raised £200 which will be forwarded to Prostate Cancer UK.

We are interested in holding similar events in the future and are drawing up ideas including concerts by Queen, The Rolling Stones, The Who, Fleetwood Mac and Talking Heads or films such as Quadrophenia.

If you would like to send suggestions for similar events in the future please email us at: Marnhull.entertains@outlook.com



We're bringing ultrafast full fibre broadband to Marnhull.

We're holding a community meeting so you can hear more about our plans to bring full fibre broadband to Marnhull. We would love to see you there.

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Heritage Trust

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Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust

Finds Identification



Bring your finds along for **Ciorstaidh Hayward-Trevarthen** to identify as she makes a welcome return to the museum
By **appointment only 10 - 11.30am** contact finds@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

11.30am – 1.00pm drop in session

Thursday 25th January 2024
10am – 1pm



POUND CLASSES

Pound is a cardio jam session inspired by the infectious, energising and sweat-dripping fun, Instead of listening to music you become the music in this exhilarating full body workout that combines cardio, conditioning and strength training with yoga and Pilates-inspired move using ripstix and a exercise mat, also B'Active with Hayley which is a little body conditioning with small weights and resistance bands along the way pm for more details Email hayley.sandell@gmail.com

MARNHULL PLAYERS PANTO

It is nearly showtime folks, we are just perfecting everything now and getting use to come on to the stage from backstage. As this part is quite tricky as you have to know where you need to be and when.

Everything is in place and we are very excited to perform for you all. Tickets are on sale now, get yours now!

The Performance dates are:
Friday 2nd February 2024 at 7pm
Saturday 3rd February at 2pm and 7pm
Sunday 4th February at 2pm.

Would you like to be involved in this fun pantomime group? Even if you don't want to be on stage, there's plenty of roles to help out with - no experience needed, we would love to have you on board.

Contact Emma at marnhullplayers@gmail.com
Looking forward to seeing you there and don't forget to join in.

Thanks
The committee and Cast



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OUR LADY'S CHURCH

NEW MASS TIME

Sunday Morning Mass at Our Lady's Marnhull is now at 9am.

Are you are interested in finding out what Catholics believe; or want to consider becoming a Catholic? Our Parish can guide you and provides teaching and support within the friendly Catholic community.

Christian faith is a way of life – it is about seeing the world in the light of the gospel and trying to live our life in accord with that. Everyone lives their own life with all the ups and downs, all the disasters and successes that make it up. For Christians that is the teaching of Jesus and the faith that the Church presents to us. We are all invited to live our own particular life guided in that way.

Contact Fr. Joseph or Deacon James on Email: James.Mackain-Bremner@prcdtr.org.uk

A NEW BISHOP FOR PLYMOUTH DIOCESE

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Canon Christopher Whitehead as the Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Plymouth. Bishop-elect Christopher said: "With complete trust in the gentle, guiding hands of the Lord, I take up the appointment that our Holy Father Pope Francis has entrusted to me.

Clifton has been my home for the 54 years of my life, and it is where I learned to walk in the ways of faith and where my priestly vocation was born and nurtured.

For that I will be eternally thankful. So too for the teachers and guides who have shown me the way, the priests and religious who have inspired me, and all who have supported me with their love and prayers. I am where I am because of their love, their witness, their example and their kindness.

"As I begin this challenging and exciting journey in the service of God's Church and the People of the Diocese of Plymouth, I ask for the prayers of the children, women and men of my new diocese. I need these and the prayers of my brother priests, and the religious communities, and all people of good will. Please pray that I may have the gifts of courage, wisdom, prudence and discernment, as your servant."

PACT, the Prison Advice and Care Trust, is the Catholic charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and families. We provide caring and life changing services at every stage of the criminal justice process: in court, in prison, on release, and in the community.

Discover more about the work of PACT here: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>
HMP Guys Marsh: Chaplin: Deacon Michael Turnbull
Contact: michael.turnbull@prcdtr.org.uk



THE METHODIST CHURCH

MUSINGS ON SHOPPING...

A friend and I visited Frome in early January to catch up and have a look around. Due to days of heavy rain and floods we were unsure of being able to get there but arrived without incident.

It's an interesting, attractive town and having been on numerous occasions previously I was looking forward to having a browse around again. The people we encountered in the cafes and shops we called in on were very friendly and helpful but, it has to be said, the town, like so many others, has suffered with empty shops and an air of neglect. It is such a shame that this is happening to so many of our lovely towns' high streets. I expect the 'Covid effect' hit businesses hard but it is sad to see that some of the good cafes and shops I was hoping to visit are gone.

Having said that, I did buy some lovely quality towels and a few bits and bobs...! What's to be done then to help a revival, what can we do about it? GO SHOPPING AGAIN! Like very many others I'm guilty of buying on the faceless internet when I could instead have had a pleasant couple of hours browsing and buying from friendly high street shops.

Continue this trend and the high streets will inevitably continue to decline. So, I am going to try to do more shopping in local towns and resist internet shopping when possible. Will you try to do this as well if you can please, to help our towns?

Perhaps all this has nothing much to do with church, except that in supporting local communities we are supporting peoples' livelihoods and doesn't every little help when it come to loving, or helping, thy neighbour.....?

I wish you a peaceful and fulfilling 2024 and remember to:
"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever."
Psalm 118 v 29

Gillian

HERBERT BRYSON

On 1st December 2023 passed away peacefully at home with his family around him. The funeral will be held on Thursday 11th January 2024 at 2.00pm at St Gregory's Church, Marnhull, followed by burial at Marnhull Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation which may be left at the church after the service or made online at www.bhf.org.uk



ST GREGORY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Happy New Year from all of us at St. Gregory's Primary School!

We finished 2023 on a very positive note, with the children really enjoying the festivities. The Carol Service and Nativity in the Church was very well-attended by family and friends, and the Santa Walk, Christmas Lunch and parties were all great fun. We also ran the now traditional Christmas Gift Shop, with the children choosing a gift for a parent and wrapping it up in secret in the school – I am sure the parents loved their surprise gifts!

Plans for St Greg's 150th Anniversary Celebrations are progressing well, with a range of in-school events organised and ideas for wider community celebrations developing. We are holding a planning meeting in the school hall on Wednesday 7th February at 5:30pm. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to be a part of the plans for this exciting time for the school.

By the time this edition is published, St Gregory's will be a new member of the Pickwick Academy Trust, a small group of primary schools from Wiltshire and North Dorset working together to provide the best educational opportunities for its children.

We are already benefitting from Pickwick's support as they have access to funds to help us renew equipment, train staff and upgrade our facilities.

Our Year 6 children are joining with those from other local schools to go to London, visit the sights and see The Lion King on stage. This is looking to be a brilliant day and an amazing experience for the children.

We continue to welcome Gnasher the Reading Dog into school; the children love to read to him in the library, and he is a very good audience for them. If you would like to join our increasing band of two-legged volunteers who come into school to hear reading or help out in the classroom, do get in touch – we would love to hear from you.

Collective Worship

Our value this term is Faith which the children will be exploring through a range of themes including gratitude, commitment and patience during our daily worship and reflection times. The worship ambassadors will be helping Rev Gaenor and Rev Angus to deliver the message during the weekly church services at St Gregory's church and during the school worship times.

Hedgehogs Class

Hedgehogs Class has enjoyed a busy start to their learning for this half term with our theme of 'Winter'.

We discussed what are the signs of winter and how these compare to the season of Autumn. We were lucky enough to have some frosty and icy days for us to explore the school grounds looking for these and using them to create word banks. We will be using them to create a senses poem during our English lessons. In Maths the Reception children have been thinking about the composition of the number 5 and how it can be made using smaller numbers.

Year 1 have been exploring teen numbers to 20 and thinking about tens and ones using apparatus such as beads strings and Numicon to create numbers to 20. Knowing how many tens and ones are within a number and creating pictorial representations for them. In Curious-city learning our new enquiry is called 'How are schools the same?' We will be geographers comparing schools around the world and their similarities despite the location.

We will explore the connection with the world ending with our challenge to create posters showcasing similarities with another global school using a choice of paints and pastels. In other areas of the curriculum, Hedgehogs class enjoyed their first Forest school session of the year.

Although very chilly, fun was had by all! We will also be learning a new exercise called 'Pound' using drumming techniques and exercise during P.E. sessions this term.

In R.E. we have been thinking about how Jesus showed friendship to others reading stories from the New Testament about how Jesus showed kindness even during difficult times. We will use these to explore our own friendships and the theme of forgiveness.

Badgers

Happy New Year to all.

Before the Christmas break, Badgers Class was learning how to write a non-chronological report and identify shapes from their properties. We looked at the features of shape poems and used the ideas learnt to write our own shape poems related to Christmas.

In Maths, Year 2's learnt about how shapes (2D and 3D shapes) - have different properties such as number of vertices, edges, faces etc. Year 3's learnt more multiplication and division facts: 3's, 4's and 8's using arrays and pictures. In Curious-city, Year 3 and 4 have been learning and exploring the Enquiry question "Why do we live here?" As geographers, the children showed great research skills used an atlas to identify what the different lines mean and other facts about different countries.

As historians, we also looked at Ancient Egyptians and identified why Egyptians lived near River Nile and how the population changed overtime. They have also been artists and created wonderful perspective artwork.

We also took part in the school nativity, used a range of media for Christmas arts enjoyed other related fun activities related to Christmas. The children had great fun going on a Santa Walk around the village and singing Christmas carols on the way.

Letters From Lily

Hi I'm back, it's me Lily but this time with one of my best friends, Harriette.

Over the last couple of terms we have been getting to know our new teachers (Mrs Brown and Mrs Irvine) and their new routines of teaching. In Foxes, one of our first topics was the heart, when we dissected a lamb's heart. It was very interesting and fun to do. At the beginning of the term all the yr 6's that wanted to, read out speeches hoping to get a role as a School Councillor or a House Captain. Parker got chair, Amy got vice chair, Harriette got scribe and Lily got Rep. We were all very pleased. RED HOUSE CAPTAINS are Daisy F and Isaac but sadly he moved away, the new house captain is me, Harriette. YELLOW HOUSE CAPTAINS are Brooke and Rosie. BLUE HOUSE CAPTAINS are Holly E and Haiden.

Last term we had a 3 night 4 day residential trip to PGL [all the kids that know about PGL call it PARENTS GET LOST but it's actually named after someone called Peter Gordon Lawrence] testing our limits with our new head Mr. Stanford. My (Lily) favourite activity was trapeze where you climb up a 15ft post and leap off of it. We also learnt how to abseil.

This term our enquiry is Linnaeus and Darwin what connects them? We're half way through our book Darwin's dragons. The characters go to the Galapagos Islands and find lots of different species. In science we have been learning how to classify different plants. Also in art we have been creating botanical drawings of flowers.

You'll be glad to hear that we have started pound and Forest School again. We have also started a dance club at school. The competition will be on the fifth of February [we have written this on the tenth of January]. We are confident that our team of twenty will come through and perform better than ever.

We hope to get in the top 5 schools. But the most important thing is that we all have fun, it doesn't matter what place we come in. Also my mum has started a sewing club and Harriette's Nana is also helping.

On the first week we started putting pins into triangles for bunting that had been cut out for us, for some of us it was our first time using a sewing machine as we sewed one of our bunting triangles up

Thanks for reading BYE

From Lily and Harrie



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had a strong start to our Spring Term, although the weather really hasn't been spring like!! The children have settled back into the school routine and were really happy to catch up with their friends and classmates.

Both St Francis and St Albans have enjoyed their first Samba lesson with Dorset Music this week.

On Monday 8th, we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany and thought about how we could try to find Jesus in each other and in those in need and to use our gifts and talents to help others this coming year.

I have been showing prospective parents around the school, and it is always a joy to hear from the children why St Mary's is such a great school.



St Mary's Explorers

The children in preschool have been developing their speaking and listening skills by participating in our daily story time sessions. This term we will be exploring the world of railways and trains.

The children will be enjoying some classic train stories. We look forward to hearing shouts of "All aboard!" as they reenact the story in the small world and role play areas.

St Anthony's

The children in St Anthony's have bounced back from their Christmas break with a great attitude to learning. They have impressed us with their independent learning and have wowed us with their mathematics. The children are continuing to enjoy the mastery approach to maths growing in confidence using lots of practical resources. In English after reading the story 'The Train Ride', the children set off on their own train ride and imagined what they might see on the journey. It was great fun exploring language together from the 'tall, towering buildings' to the 'soft, fluffy sheep'. We are looking forward to delving deeper into our 'Trains' topic.

In history we will be investigating trains through time and in science we will be discovering how steam was used to power trains.

St Mark's

The children have been busy learning about the coming of the Magi (wise men) and working in groups to perform freeze frames of different parts of the story. The children were intrigued about the fact that King Herod was not happy about the birth of Jesus as he was going to be the new King of the Jews. The children then had the opportunity to write about what was happening in their favourite freeze frame.



In Computing, St Marks have started a unit on desktop publishing. The children were looking at images and text and deciding which gave you more information; images, text or both together.

St Francis'

We have had a very exciting start to the New Year in St Francis class. Today we started our ten-week course in Samba. We were introduced to where in the world Samba is played and the instruments used in a Samba band.

We are currently reading Chris Callaghan's book 'The Great Chocoplot' in guided reading and look forward to doing some Narrative writing about it later this half term. In Science this term, we are doing States of Matter and have started off looking at the differences in solids, liquids and gasses and how the particles relate to each other. Our History topic this half term is Early Islamic Civilisation and we have started to look at how and where Islam was founded.

St Alban's

The children of St Alban's class have settled back into the school routine brilliantly and have, once again, stepped up their effort and hard work this spring term. We have recently started our new topic, 'How the Roman Empire impacted Britain'. We have looked at the history of Pompeii, Mount Vesuvius and started to research the legend of how Rome was formed!



We have also enjoyed our new Samba music lessons where the children began to learn about the culture of Brazil and some of the instruments used.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

A Happy New Year to you all.

It has been 10 months since I became Chair of Marnhull Parish council (MPC). It feels like an awful lot has happened in that time and I thought it would be worthwhile to reflect on 2023 and to look ahead to 2024.

2023: - well it certainly wasn't boring! From my perspective it was dominated by two things. Firstly, the imminent and then actual arrival of the Tess Square and Butts Close application.

I was pleased to see so many people attend the Parish Council meeting in early December. Our response has been submitted and can be found on the MPC web site. We wait for the Dorset Planning Committee to meet.

Secondly, the early stages of the creation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Village Questionnaire. I was also extremely pleased to receive over 500 responses and we are working our way through the detail and will publish the highlights and then all the results early in 2024. Thank you to everyone who submitted a response.

I am proud of the way the Parish has responded to these challenges and it represents a massive amount of work by the respective teams. I would personally like to thank Steve Winder for taking us all through the intricacies of the planning process in a clear and simple way and the quality of the response submitted to Dorset Council.

I made mention of the energy and enthusiasm of the Neighbourhood Plan team in my last note; they have been tested by all the work to develop, issue, and collate the Questionnaire. My thanks to Jules Cormack, Stephen Boyce and Steve Penson and the team for all their hard work.

2024: - I have to say I don't think the workload for the council will reduce at all in 2024. We have further planning applications to review, planning appeals to prepare for and attend (Tess Square, Musberry Lane, land North of Crown Road) and the heavy lifting for the Neighbourhood Plan. Just think, this time next year we could be close to getting the Plan approved! All that plus council elections in May; more about that later.

Finally, I would like to also review the key challenges I set out last time:

- Planning – we will continue to keep the parish informed on all the major planning applications in 2024, this isn't going away!
- Neighbourhood Plan – I've said all I need to say on this subject!
- S106 commitments – we still await the first 'spade in the ground' on any of the approved major developments (Burton Street development is the closest to starting) and we are in dialogue with Dorset Council to ensure they understand how our thinking and priorities are changing over time. I suspect this will become more prevalent in 2024.
- Keep doing the day-to-day work – a big thank you to all the councillors for making sure the important basics continue to be delivered. It is very easy to be distracted by the 'big' stuff and neglect everything else. I am grateful that this is not the case.
- Engagement – I would like to think we have improved this over the last 10 months or so, but you will be the judge.

I have asked councillors to write articles for the Messenger so you will get to hear from them rather me in 2024! Meanwhile, I will continue to make visits to local societies, schools, and events as I can so that I can see first-hand what happens and give you an opportunity to say hello.

If you want me to pay a visit, please drop me a line at mark.turner@marnhull-pc.org.uk and I will see what I can do.

Finally, I hope you all have a healthy and happy 2024

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Happy New Year – if it's not too late to say that! We hope you all enjoyed the festive break and are gearing up for all that spring and the rest of the year may bring. MVC have been working in the background on putting procedures in place to help us run smoothly, efficiently and be ready to react to any situation that may arise. To that end, we have been working particularly closely with the Parish Council to put into place an Emergency Response Plan.

Sounds as though we're expecting the sky to fall on our heads at any moment – we're not! However it is always good to be prepared to a certain extent and the ERP is just that. No doubt you remember the power cuts following (one of) the storms last year and how that affected some.

No power to charge phones, heat food, heat the home etc. As you'd expect, the villagers rose to the challenge and before too long the Village Hall was open for people to use and various offers of help had come in for all sorts of scenarios.

The Plan currently being drawn up will put a structure in place for just this sort of situation so there will always be a central point of contact to disseminate information, organise the appropriate response and ensure nothing or no-one is left high and dry – although in the event of flooding that is probably exactly what we want!

Once the Plan, still in it's draft stage, has been approved and ratified by the Parish Council it will be published for all to see so everyone will have be able to have an understanding of the first actions to take in the event of need.

MVC is not just about responding to emergencies or providing transport. We also offer support in other ways and so we are pleased to support and recommend a new initiative dealing with feelings of loss.

This is a wide-ranging emotion, experienced by us all at some point in our lives, whether it's through loss of our partner, a family member, a pet, possibly redundancy or even the gradual loss of someone dear to us through dementia or poor health.

It can often feel as though we are the only one going through this and some people find it difficult to admit to the variety of emotions they may feel – anger, despair, denial, loneliness and so on.

A new group is being formed specifically to help with this – here are some words from one of the group leaders:

A colleague and I are proposing to start a grief support group in Marnhull in conjunction with Marnhull Village Care.

Currently the venue needs to be confirmed but we hope to start the group in March. It can help to talk through feelings of loss with others who have been through it too, and as facilitators we both have first hand experience of bereavement.

We are qualified in working with individuals and families at end of life, the bereaved and those who have suffered loss. If you would like more information please contact:-
Flora - 07778431264
Nicola – 07975570381

As soon as the venue is confirmed this will be communicated via the Messenger and village Facebook page. Your attendance at the group and anything said there is entirely confidential and remains within the group so if you feel you may benefit from this, please contact Flora or Nicola above, or get in touch with MVC via Ann on 01258 820456 for further details. In the meantime, let's look forward to spring, drier and warmer weather, lighter evenings and the daffodils appearing around the village again!

VOLUNTEER

We would really love your help at Sturminster Newton Mill and Museum!

Perhaps you could offer a few hours for a front of house duty, meeting and greeting our lovely visitors.

Maybe you would enjoy helping with our social events, for example our famous cream teas! We are always looking for cakes.

We also need muscle power, erecting gazebos and carrying chairs!

Could you help us support your local history, the mill and museum are so very important!

If you have some free time please contact Zilla on 01258 473178

STURMINSTER NEWTON LITERARY FESTIVAL

The D-Day project for this year's SturLitFest (8-16 June 2024) is seeking contributions from local people whose family members took part in the build-up to and military invasion of Normandy 80 years ago.

We will be creating an exhibition of family testimonies and images that will be on show in the gallery at The Exchange, Sturminster Newton from June 6th.

On June 9th the exhibition will be formally launched alongside author events commemorating the invasion.

If you'd like to contribute to the exhibition please send us a 500 word account of your forbear's experience in June 1944.

If possible, please submit a typed version via email to sturlitfest1@gmail.com or deliver a hand-written account to the Town Council Offices in Sturminster Newton. Mark it FAO CClr Pauline Batstone - D-D 80th Anniversary Project.

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Marnull Neighbourhood Plan

Parish Survey
 A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. This was the main focus of our work during November/December and we were delighted to receive 503 responses. We are currently reviewing and analysing the data and will report back in next month's Messenger.

NEWS FROM TRADING STANDARDS

JOIN DORSET'S 4000 FRIENDS AGAINST SCAMS

Today, just over 1 in every 100 people living in Dorset are a Friend Against Scams.

Friends learn how to spot the signs of a scam, so can stop themselves from falling for one. Also, because Friends know the signs of a scam, they can also use that learning to help to spot other people who are potentially affected by this type of fraud.

By having simple everyday conversations Friends can help to keep others safe, whether family, friends, work colleagues; anyone a Friend might meet.

Friends often encourage other people to become a Friend too, helping to grow the scheme in Dorset. Friends also know where to report a scam and where to go to get help.

It's very easy to become a Friend. Anyone can. Just visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk and take the 20-minute online training at a time to suit you. If you don't have a computer, then ask at your local library how to access the training from a public access computer.

If you are part of a group and would like face to face training for a larger number of people, then please contact Trading Standards on the email below.

Some people ask us about opportunities to volunteer with Trading Standards as a Dorset Council Trading Standards Community Volunteer.

Volunteers become SCAMchampions who encourage others to become Friends in a more structured way. Examples include attending partnership events with Trading Standards staff, having face to face conversations with people in libraries, getting involved with informal group discussions, and for some who are confident in doing it, then presentations.

We are always happy to hear from people who would like to talk about what they can offer. We are led by you in terms of how much you'd like to be involved.

To find out more about our Trading Standards volunteering opportunities, then please get in touch with us at tradingstandards@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



Congratulations to Chris and Patsy Gassman who won the Christmas hamper in our prize

Heritage and Landscape

Adrian Bailey has continued to lead work on a Conservation Area Appraisal reviewing the current conservation areas and other heritage assets of the village. Marnull Green Teams are undertaking an ecological survey which will also provide valuable data and information for the neighbourhood plan. We're grateful for their support and delighted to be working in collaboration with the Green Teams.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
 January 2024

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

ACROSS 1. Midway 4. Shrew 6. Emu 7. Asteroid 8. Oche
 11. Index 13. Imam 15. Urology 16. Italics 17. Yuan
 19. Snood 21. Opal 24. Lift-offs 25. Tao 26. Quota
 27. Deduce
 Down 1. Mulch 2. Washington 3. Yield 4. Sioux 5. Rodham
 6. Echo 9. Corfu 10. Ellen 12. Eisteddfod 13. Igloo
 14. Accra 18. Apollo 19. Sofia 20. Ovoid 22. Piste 23. Lido

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



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TECHNEWS



YOUR MONTHLY TECH UPDATE

CHRIS RYU
Dorset Tech

Hello and welcome to this new monthly column where I give you a brief overview of what's changing in the world of technology and how it will affect you in Marnhull. We have a broad range of readers and so I'd love to hear your feedback on the level of detail I give and the types of technology I cover, so that I can adapt in future issues. Let's dive right in...

ULTRA FAST BROADBAND

As you may have heard, Marnhull was selected as part of the Fibre roll-out and Wessex Internet have been working recently on connecting the village in 3 phases of roll-out. I'm told that we were the first to be connected and while we did have some issues I'm pleased to say that we now have working fibre to the premises. They claim to offer speeds of 900Mbps down and 450Mbps up, which for this part of the village is a huge leap ahead of the 14Mbps that BT were able to give. It should be noted that they're still ironing out some kinks with the speed, but it's at least been reliable.

If you'd like to get Wessex Internet Full Fibre in your property visit wessexinternet.com

Another option that works well in the village is Starlink. This involves having a small dish fitted to your house, or placed in your garden and the internet is beamed down to it. On average we were getting 160Mbps down and 80Mbps up, so again much better than BT were able to offer. We now have a dish for sale if anyone is interested and wants to save some money!

More information on Starlink can be found at starlink.com

LANDLINE DIGITAL SWITCH OVER

As Chris Walton mentioned in December, BT are retiring analogue phone lines by December of next year. The network is old and is becoming expensive to maintain alongside fibre alternatives.

These changes have already started and your provider will contact you to tell you what will happen. If any equipment changes are needed, your supplier will need to provide them for free.

IMPORTANT: If you are dependent on your landline – for example you have no mobile signal at your home – your provider must offer you a free solution to make sure you can make emergency calls when the power is out. This can just be a battery pack (called a UPS) that will power your landline phone during emergencies.

Please let your provider know if you have a care alarm, health pendant or security alarm that uses the phone line. There are solutions for this and the provider will get them set up for you, but

you must make them aware before the service is switched over to ensure there is no down-time.

AI TECH ROUND UP

I can't talk tech in 2024 and not talk about AI, it is everywhere! Almost every app or website enquiry I'm getting at the agency involve some kind of AI functionality.

This month's AI feature is a proof of concept developed by Meta called AI Actor. This can take a line of text and create a photo realistic 3D model of a person, then taking an audio clip, it will animate that virtual actor in a very realistic way.

Another one to watch is "Magnific" which allows you to zoom in to an image to an almost microscopic level. Any description I give you won't do this one justice, Google Magnific Burger to see what it can do.

Finally, the Samsung S24 Ultra releasing this month has a feature that can take a video of upto 8K resolution and using AI, create additional frames to make the video a slow motion one. That's not slowing down the video, it's actually creating new parts to the video - insane!

NEW TECH ROUND-UP

The CES show was held earlier this month and is where all the brands show off their latest creations, here is just a short round-up:

- Samsung unveiled a fully transparent Micro LED TV that looks like a hologram from a sci-fi movie
- Samsung also unveiled their latest line of AI assisted phones – the S24 actually looks very promising - and a flip phone that has a large display that can fold both ways.
- If that wasn't enough they also unveiled a cute robot that both hovers and mops the floors. Everything includes AI now, so of course this is no different. It detects furniture with cameras and can detect stains that need more attention
- Asus unveiled a 2 screen laptop at a "reasonable" considering the specification price of £1,000
- The Asus Zenwifi routers (Wessex internet use these BTW) received an upgrade and will support the new WiFi 7 technology giving better speeds
- Lenovo unveiled an interesting laptop that runs both Windows and Android at the same time. You can even undock the screen part and use it as an Android tablet. As an app developer I can see some huge benefits to this, but for the general public I'm not sure
- Great new feature for those of you with EVs. The popular Android Auto system is having an upgrade! Supported cars will share real time battery info with Google maps so that your navigation can automatically re-route you to chargers at the right point of your journey. Some models will get a voice guidance upgrade and Google Chrome browser added

That's all for this month - see you next time!

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DORSET LORE



LIN-CROCK DAY

CHRIS WALTON
Oak Digital Solutions

Welcome to Dorset Lore, a monthly column featuring the rich heritage of folklore, tradition, ghost stories and legends of the county of Dorset.

We begin close to home with a Shrovetide tradition that was followed here in Marnhull.

Until about 120 years ago on Shrove Tuesday it was a custom in Sherborne for children to take any cracked or useless crockery known as 'shards' around the village with them as weapons and, upon arriving at a neighbour's front door, sing:-

'Here I come, I never came before,
If you don't give me a pancake
I'll break down your door.'

They would then throw the crockery at the door smashing it. The house owner was then supposed to come outside and toss a pancake for the children to catch.

Similar happenings occurred in Marnhull, Blandford and other places. As a result, Shrove Tuesday was known by some as Lin-Crock Day.

This comes from the wonderful 'Dorset up along and down along' first published in 1935 - A collection of History, Tradition, Folk Lore, Flower Names and Herbal Lore gathered together by members of The Women's Institute and edited by Marianne R. Dacombe.

I have already gathered lots of folklore specific to Marnhull and surrounding villages and would be very interested to hear what stories locals recall, what their sources are, and what variations there are of the stories I have already researched.

You can e-mail me at dorsetlore@gmail.com or visit the Dorset Lore website at: www.oakdigitalsolution.co.uk/dorsetlore

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DORSET MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Dorset Museum & Art Gallery raising funds to keep rare Treasure hoards in the county

Dorset Museum & Art Gallery is currently raising funds to keep two rare archaeological hoards in the county, both of which were found by metal detectors and declared Treasure. Acquiring them will complement the Museum's existing archaeological collections which have national and international significance.

The first is a group of 40 gold stater Iron Age coins, found at Charlton Marshall near Blandford Forum in north Dorset. Dating to the 2nd century BCE, the hoard is incredibly unusual, as the coins were imported from France. They were made by a Gaulish tribe called the Baiocasses and very few similar finds are known from Dorset and the south coast.

The second hoard is a Middle Bronze Age hoard found in Stalbridge. It consists of a palstave axe head, a bangle with incised decoration and a rapier sword. The rapier is very unusual. Not only was it apparently deliberately broken in three pieces and buried, but the hilt was shaped to mimic a wooden handle. Only two remotely similar (and incomplete) examples could be identified in Britain. It does however have some similarities with the solid-cast hilts of Nordic rapiers from Scandinavia. This hoard has huge potential for display, but also future research which will enable the Museum & Art Gallery to continue to flesh out the story of our Dorset forebears.

If you would like to make a donation to one or both of the appeals, please visit the website <https://www.dorsetmuseum.org> or phone 01305 262735. You can also send a cheque made payable to Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, citing 'Charlton Marshall appeal' or 'Stalbridge appeal' in your covering note.

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MARNHULL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

It all started at the GP surgery. The Patient Participation Group was discussing why so many folk with no obvious physical illness were presenting regularly and demanding to see a doctor.

What was fuelling this anxiety? Poverty? Social alienation? Isolation? Debt? Domestic violence? Longterm debility?

The idea of the Pantry evolved as a place where people in a desperate situation could work their way back into their usual lifestyle with help which was tailored to their individual problems. The very eloquent Carol Jones, who spends most of her time fundraising for the project, was keen to point out that the Pantry model is not the same as a Food Bank. Although it certainly is a place where people in trouble can get food at affordable prices, the Pantry offers counselling on controlling a budget, cooking cheaply and general home management.

All the families and individuals who are on The Vale Pantry's books can visit once a week and pay £7. For this they can select two "red" items (high-priced commodities such as meat and cheese), six "green" items (foods in tins and packets) and as many "free" items as they like (fruit and vegetables) Obviously the user's fee doesn't cover the whole cost and the shortfall is made up from donations and fundraising. Supermarkets donate end-of-day items and surplus stock which are collected every evening by volunteers who then prepare the display for the next day. There can be no doubting the zeal of the volunteers.

Between them they have helped a large number of local families back onto their feet so that they are no longer reliant on the Pantry, but they are still working with 365 unhappy and desperate families (994 people all told) who need their care.

The holistic approach seems to be working and Vale Pantry plans to move to larger premises on the Butts Pond Estate where they can hold elementary cookery classes for harassed mums and prepare breakfasts for children who would otherwise go to school hungry.

The Vale Pantry welcomes all sorts of donations, not just food: toys, soap, shampoo, - anything a destitute family would like and find useful. In February our topic is "Greek Dancing" which Yiannis Tsenicos will explain and, hopefully, demonstrate.

MARNHULL METHODIST CHURCH

Our Lovely Help has retired so now we are looking for someone who will clean our Methodist Church and hall. It will require one and a half to two hours a week, day and time to be agreed. Equipment etc provided and pay is negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please ring initially,
01258820203 (Blackmore Vale Foot Care)
and we'll get back to you. Thank you!

Tea with Friends

Our next regular, monthly, get together is Wednesday 14th February 2.30 to 4pm Methodist Church Hall.

ALL WELCOME

MARNHULL MEN'S SHED

The Marnhull Men's Shed meets weekly at our workshop, where members can work on their own projects or work together on Community projects. There is also the opportunity to learn new skills or pass on skills to others. For those not project minded there is always the chance for a natter over tea and biscuits with friends old and new.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact Alan Loukes
Alan@loukes.co.uk or 07767 817173

STURMINSTER CHORAL SOCIETY

If you would like to take up/return to choral singing, try us out! Sturminster Choral Society meets again on Monday 18th September, 7pm, at The Exchange in Sturminster to rehearse for its Christmas concert (9th December): Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols. We would be delighted to welcome you – sopranos, altos, basses and tenors all; no auditions.

Just turn up or ring 01258 472274 for more details.



MARNHULL GARDEN CLUB

62 members braved the cold to attend our January meeting in Marnhull VH on Tuesday 9 January, the first meeting of a new membership year.

Our Guest Speaker Edward Parker travelled down from Cheltenham and thoroughly entertained & informed us for just over an hour with his Curious Plant Stories from around the World, all formed from his own extensive travels & experiences with many worthy ecological organisations.

Refreshments were served with style and a smile during the interval and the raffle raised just over £60.

By the end of the evening 96 members had already renewed their annual membership for 2024 and will continue to enjoy the many benefits that MGC membership brings for another year.

Next meeting on 13 February is the Marnhull Garden Club AGM .

New Members are very welcome...it's just £20 for the whole of 2024

Email marnhullgardenclub@gmail.com for more details

Awaken 2 Bacon

Many thanks to all those who supported Awaken 2 Bacon on New Year's Day to welcome 2024. It was the first A2B since before the pandemic so we were delighted that 140 people came to share the celebration, with standing room only! After costs we made a surplus of £462 which was divided equally between two very worthwhile local charities - Julia's House and The Vale Pantry.

Thank you again.

Lynda, Anne and all the helpers

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Marnhull & Gillingham BADMINTON Club

BADMINTON FOR BEGINNERS

Monday Club Social Night: 8-10pm (except bank holidays)
 Joining Fee £25
 Adults £4.50
 Family (up to 2 adults & 2 children) £7.00
 Juniors £3.00

All Coaching FREE (Badminton England Coach)
 Loads of fun for children and families

Badminton Club Night Tuesday club night: 7.00-10.00pm
 First night free to new members

All Coaching FREE (Badminton England Coach)
 Intermediate level players always welcome

Badminton Senior Night
 Thursday senior league night: 8.15-10.15pm
 The club is interested in players who wish to play at a league level.

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

CONTACT:
 Robert Tulk - 01258 820728
 Meet at Riversmeet on Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays

MARNHULL LUNCH CLUB

Meets on the 1st Friday of every month in the Village Hall, except January. The club opens at 12 noon and lunch is served at 1pm. Transport can be provided to and from the Village Hall if needed.

Main Course, Dessert and Tea or Coffee £9.00
 For more information please call
 Liz 01258 821378 or Dawn 01258 820642

MARNHULL TABLE TENNIS

Monday & Wednesday afternoons
 Now playing within Covid restrictions
 COME AND TRY US!!

Contact:
 Boyd Sofield - 01258 820964 or
 John Dowsett - john.dowsett@virgin.net

MARNHULL GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club meets at 7.30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of most months, in the Marnhull Village Hall. Come and join us for refreshments and a chat. We usually have a guest speaker and learn some new gardening tips.

Contact Secretary Mr Phil Silvester 01258 394288 / 07921 214591 marnhullgardenclub@gmail.com

MARNHULL MUSIC SOCIETY

Meets every 3rd Monday of the month (except July and August) at 7:15pm in the village hall. We listen to a varied programme of music (mainly but not exclusively classical) presented by one of our members and enjoy a social 'cuppa' during an interval.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 Please contact Alan Loukes on 01258 821629

MARNHULL AMBLERS & RAMBLERS

Short walk (amble) approx 3 miles
 on 2nd Thursday morning of the month
 Contact Anne Dowsett - dowsettanne52@gmail.com

Longer walk (ramble) 5-7 miles
 on last Thursday of the month
 Contact Elaine Spencer-White - elainesw48@gmail.com

MARNHULL CRAFT CLUB

Meets at 10:00am on the first Thursday of every month (except August) in

THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL
 Relax, meet new and old friends for coffee and chat. Use your skills and learn something new, in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

More information from Sue Piper - 07787299227

MARNHULL BRIDGE CLUB

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

New Players always welcome.
 Call 01258 820036 for information

FRENCH & SPANISH CONVERSATION

Want to get those little grey cells working? Then come along to French or Spanish conversation! This can complement your work with Duolingo or refresh your memories of your O level days.

For more information contact Ros Eveleigh on 821049.

MARNHULL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meets on the 2nd Monday in the month (except Aug) At 7.30pm in the Village Hall

We look forward to seeing new and old members
 President: Nicola Denham - 01258 821343

BLACKMORE VALE ART GROUP

The group meets monthly on the second Friday at 10:30am in the Village Hall.
 All styles and levels of experience are welcomed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
 Yvonne 820247 or mikyon@aol.com



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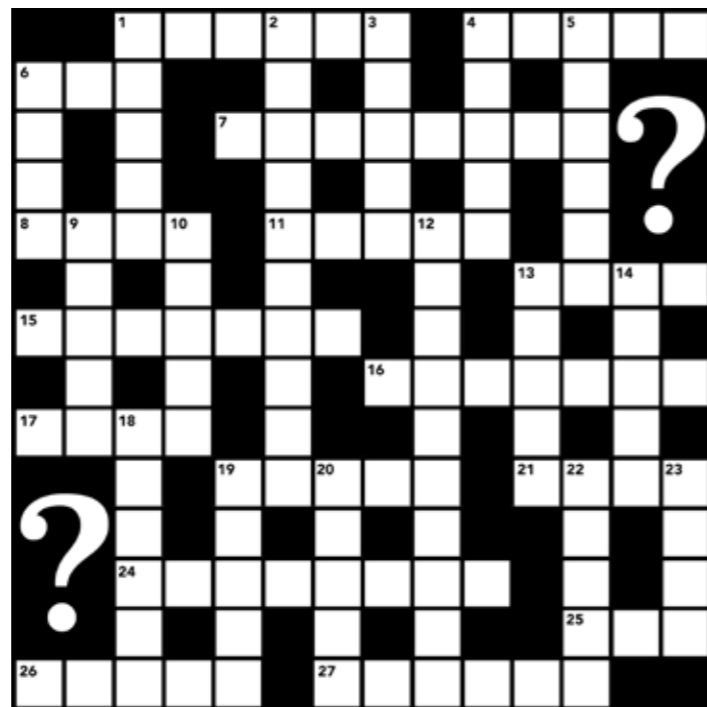
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ACROSS

- 1) Naval battle in the Pacific During WW11. (6)
- 4) The only animal mentioned in the title of a Shakespeare play. (5)
- 6) Large flightless bird. (3)
- 7) Small rocky body orbiting the sun. (8)
- 8) The line behind which dart player stand while throwing. (4)
- 11) The finger next to the thumb. (5)
- 13) Person who leads prayers in a mosque. (4)
- 15) Branch of medicine concerned with the urinary system. (7)
- 16) Style of writing or printing in which the letters lean to the right. (7)
- 17) Basic monetary unit of China. (4)
- 19) Pouch worn over the hair at the back of a woman's head. (5)
- 21) A gemstone consisting of a quartz like form of hydrated silica. (4)
- 24) Vertical launches of space crafts. (4-4)
- 25) In Chinese philosophy the absolute principle underlying the universe. (3)
- 26) A limited quantity of a product allowed to be produced. (5)
- 27) Arrive at a fact by reasoning. (6)



DOWN

- 1) Leaves, bark or compost spread around a plant to enrich the soil. (5)
- 2) Which US state is bordered by Idaho, Oregon the Pacific Ocean and British Columbia. (10)
- 3) The amount produced of an agricultural or industrial product. (5)
- 4) Group of native American tribes of the Great Plains of North America. (5)
- 5) Hilary Carter's middle name. (6)
- 6) Repetition of sound caused by the reflection of sound waves. (4)
- 9) Greek island in the Ionian Sea. (5)
- 10) First name of US chat show host DeGeneres. (5)
- 12) Name of a competitive festival of music and poetry in Wales. (10)
- 13) Dome shaped Eskimo house. (5)
- 14) Capital of Ghana. (5)
- 18) Greek God of the sun. (6)
- 19) Capital of Bulgaria. (5)
- 20) Egg shaped. (5)
- 22) A course for skiing. (5)
- 23) Public open air bathing beach. (4)

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ALL PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 24

New Messenger Deadline:
14th February

Email all texts, announcements
and other requests to:
editor@marnhullmessenger.org.uk



- ◆ Buying and Selling Your Home
- ◆ Commercial Property
- ◆ Wills
- ◆ Agricultural and Rural Business
- ◆ Powers of Attorney
- ◆ Employment
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DARE TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENTLY?



This is a CGI image of a project we finished recently. We incorporated a bespoke piece of wane edge plank boarding which the client already owned, to provide an unique raised breakfast bar. The cabinets are made to measure using Denim Blue egger board and the doors are solid oak raised & fielded panels, all topped off with mirror Quartz worktops. The appliances are from Smeg & the sink & tap are from The1810 company. The flooring is a LVT from Karndean. Our clients are thrilled with their new kitchen. This project was completely bespoke and more cost effective than their quote from Wren, which is a budget brand.

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