



THE MARNHULL MESSENGER



Original illustration by George Cox

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See what the schools are up to



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**WELCOME TO YOUR
MARNHULL
MESSENGER**

CHRIS RYU
Messenger Editor

December 2023 - Issue 140

Welcome to the last issue of the year. I'll use my intro as a reminder of the important bits from last issue.

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 January, 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.

Columnists Wanted

As I haven't yet been replaced, I'm on a mission to kick the Messenger up a gear next year. We'll have a slight design re-fresh over the festive break and hopefully the above policy change will make it feel less "advert-heavy". We want to increase the amount of high quality content and keep you coming back for more, so we're looking for some regular columnists. You would have a professionally designed and promoted column where you can talk about your area of expertise. Ideas: Online safety, gardening, money saving, etc. Get in touch with me (details on the right) if you're interested.

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.

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.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

MID-DAY 14th January
E-mail all texts, announcements and other requests to:
editor@marnhullmessenger.org.uk

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MARNHULL MESSENGER WEBSITE

WHO DO I CONTACT?

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

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.

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

December

- 1st - Luncheon Club @ 12:00
- 1st - Community Choir @ 19:30
- 2nd - Hub and Repair Cafe @ 10:00
- 2nd - Community Choir @ 19:30
- 2nd - Stage one @ 20:00 British Legion
- 4th - Pound Fitness @ 9:30 British Legion
- 4th - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 5th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Hall
- 6th -Fitsteps Dance & Exercise class @ 11:15
- 6th - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 6th - Community Choir @ 18:30
- 6th - Pound Fitness @ 19: British Legion
- 7th - Craft Club @ 10:00 Methodist Hall
- 8th - Blackmore Vale Art Group @ 10:00
- 8th - St Mary's Christmas Yultide Fair @ 18:00
- 8th - Vale Ukes @ 18:00 British Legion
- 9th - Hub and Repair Cafe @ 10:00
- 9th - St Mary's Tea with Santa @ 11:30
- 9th - Jungle Hut Christmas Bingo @ 19:00
- 9th - The Beagles @ 20:00
- 10th - Christmas Wreath Workshops @ 10:00
- 10th - Christmas Wreath Workshops @ 13:30
- 11th - Pound Fitness @ 9:30 British Legion
- 11th - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 11th - Lynne's Christmas Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion
- 11th - Women's Institute Christmas Party @ 19:30
- 12th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
- 13th - Fitsteps Dance & Exercise Class @ 11:15
- 13th - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 13th - Tea with Friends @ 14:30 Methodist Hall
- 13th - Community Choir @ 18:30
- 13th - Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion
- 15th - Marnhull Community Cafe @ 10:00
- 15th - Open Mic Night @ 16:30 British Legion
- 16th - Hub and Repair Cafe @ 10:00
- 16th - Jack's Christmas Quiz @ 19:00
- 18th - Pound Fitness @ 9:30 British Legion

- 18th - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 18th - Marnhull Music Society @ 19:15
- 19th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Hall
- 20th - Fitsteps Dance & Exercise Class @ 11:15
- 20th - Table Tennis - @14:00
- 20th - Community Choir @ 18:30
- 20th - Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion
- 22nd - Figure Drawing @ 10:30
- 22nd - Live Music & Christmas Draw @ 20:00 British Legion
- 23rd - Hub and Repair Cafe @ 10:00
- 26th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Hall
- 27th - Fitsteps dance & Exercise Class @ 11:15
- 27th - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 27th - Community Choir @ 18:30
- 27th - Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion
- 30th - Hub and Repair Cafe @ 10:00

January

- 1st - Pound Fitness @ 9:30 British Legion
- 1st - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 2nd - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Hall
- 3rd - Fitsteps Dance & Exercise Class @ 11:15
- 3rd - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 3rd - Community Choir @ 18:30
- 3rd - Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion
- 4th - Craft Club @ 10:00 Methodist Hall
- 5th - Luncheon Club @ 12:00
- 6th - Hub and Repair Cafe @ 10:00
- 8th - Pound Fitness @ 9:30 British Legion
- 8th - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 8th - Lynne's Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion
- 9th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 British Legion
- 9th - Marnhull Garden Club @ 19:00
- 10th - Fitsteps Dance & Exercise Class @ 11:15
- 10th - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 10th - Tea with Friends @ 14:30 Methodist Hall
- 10th - Community Choir @ 18:30
- 10th - Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion
- 12th - Blackmore Vale art Group @ 10:00
- 13th - Hub and Repair Cafe @ 10:00

- 15th - Pound Fitness @ 9:30 British Legion
- 15th - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 15th - Marnhull Music Society @ 19:15
- 16th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Church
- 17th - Fitsteps Dance and Exercise Class @ 11:15
- 17th - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 17th - Community Choir @ 18:30
- 17th - Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion
- 19th Community Cafe @ 10:00
- 20th - Hub and Repair Cafe @ 10:00
- 22nd - Pound Fitness @ 9:30 British Legion
- 22nd - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 22nd - Lynne's Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion
- 23rd - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Hall
- 24th - Fitsteps Dance & Exercise @ 11:15
- 24th - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 24th - Community Choir @ 18:30
- 24th - Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion
- 26th - Figure Drawing @ 10:30
- 27th - Hub and Repair Cafe @ 10:00
- 29th - Pound Fitness @ 9:30 British Legion
- 29th - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 30th - Bridge Club @ 14:00 Methodist Hall
- 31st - Fitsteps Dance & Exercise Class @ 11:15
- 31st - Table Tennis @ 14:00
- 31st - Community Choir @ 18:30
- 31st - Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion

**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!
www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk

STURMINSTER NEWTON MEDICAL CENTRE



Getting the right help and services

Winter months are always a busy time for GP Practices. There may be another service or healthcare professional that you can see to give you the support you need without contacting the Practice. Find the right service for your needs at <https://staywelldorset.nhs.uk/>

Everyone has an important role to prevent illness and minor issues like coughs and colds, sore throats, or ear infections can be easily treated at home with cheap medicines from your local pharmacy without needing an appointment or prescription.

Medicine cabinet essentials include:

- Pain relief (e.g. paracetamol, ibuprofen)
- Cough or sore throat remedies
- First aid kit (plasters, bandages, antiseptic wipes)
- Oral rehydration salts
- Heartburn and indigestion treatment

Stocking up on these essentials will not only help you feel better sooner and save you time, but also help the NHS save much needed resources.

Self-Care – Coughs

Coughs can often be managed at home without visiting the GP. We advise that you rest and drink plenty of fluids to help ease your symptoms. Home remedies such as lemon and honey can also be helpful, while over-the-counter pain relief like paracetamol or ibuprofen may ease any discomfort you're experiencing.

Most coughs are harmless and will go away on their own, but if your cough lasts for more than three weeks, contains blood, or you have trouble breathing, we recommend that you contact the Practice via Klinik or telephone.

Self-Care – Colds

To speed up your recovery, we recommend staying hydrated and getting plenty of rest. Additionally, you can purchase over-the-counter cold medicines like painkillers and decongestants from a pharmacy or supermarket to relieve your symptoms.

Most colds last between 1-2 weeks and typically resolve on their own. However, if your symptoms suddenly worsen, persist for more than three weeks, or you develop a high temperature above 39°C, please contact the Practice via Klinik or telephone.

Self-Care – Sore Throat

Adults can soothe a sore throat by gargling warm salt water and sucking on ice cubes or hard sweets. For children, ice lollies are a safer option than small items that could cause choking. You can speed up the recovery process by staying hydrated and getting enough rest. Your local pharmacist can advise you on over-the-counter medicines to help alleviate any pain and discomfort.

Sore throats typically clear up within a week. If your symptoms persist beyond a week or you often get sore throats, we recommend contacting the Practice via Klinik or telephone.

Self-Care – Ear Infection

You can manage the pain and discomfort with over-the-counter painkillers like paracetamol or ibuprofen, or by using a warm or cold flannel on the ear. Antibiotics are not recommended for ear infections as they don't alleviate symptoms and the infection should clear up by itself within 3-7 days.

Ear infections are generally harmless and can be easily treated at home. However, if the earache persists beyond 3 days, or you experience frequent ear infections, we recommend that you contact the Practice via Klinik or telephone.

Self-Care – Sinusitis

When managing sinusitis at home, we suggest getting lots of rest, drinking plenty of fluids and taking over-the-counter painkillers for any

pain or fever. Additionally, visit your local pharmacist for expert advice or other ways to manage your symptoms, such as using salt water solutions or nasal sprays to clean your nose. Although sinusitis can be easily managed at home, we advise you to contact the Practice via Klinik or telephone if your symptoms worsen, do not improve after a week or you experience recurring sinusitis.

Help with Digital Access

Health Champion, Brian Lock, is offering fortnightly 2hr IT support sessions on Fridays in the Health Education room at Abbey View Medical Centre.

- He is looking to demonstrate and teach patients solutions and
- to add their emergency details to their mobiles which could save lives if emergency services are in attendance for a serious health situation.
 - looking to encourage patients to add a password manager to their phones.
 - demonstrate and teach how to use Klinik to its full potential.
 - and signpost a patient to a relevant NHS App for any long-term conditions (LTC).

Please contact Brian to explain your need and if he feels he can help, he'll offer you a date to attend. Contact Brian on 07770 04020 or via email at lockbrian@gmail.com

MARNHULL TENNIS CLUB

Despite the end of the main season it's still busy at the courts, with the Tombola Tournament coming to a thrilling end, club sessions continuing on Friday mornings, and more Juniors sessions coming up soon, as well as our Festive Fun Day in December! New members and visitors are always welcome and all the information about the club can be found on our website www.marnhulltennisclub.net.

TOMBOLA TOURNAMENT WINNERS

A big congratulations to Sally Bruner and Malcolm Locke who won this year's tournament beating finalists Stuart Angell and Kevin McBarron! The match took place on Friday 27th October in front of an excellent crowd that built throughout the match. The format sees more experienced players paired with someone less so, creating an exciting journey to the final. Malcolm, for whom a tennis final has probably been rare was partnered by Sally who is certainly one of the better players the club has ever seen. On the other side of the net Kevin had returned to tennis this April after a 30 year gap while Stuart has for the last couple of years been transferring his county level table tennis skills to the larger format! Anybody's game?

The first set went quite quickly with Sally and Malcolm's consistency not being matched by their opponents (6/1). However the quality of tennis was improving and Kevin and Stuart were not going to let this go easily, taking the second set into a tightly fought tie-break which Sally and Malcom won (7/6). The rallies got longer, the crowd became more involved and a great afternoon was had by all. Congratulations to all finalists.

JUNIORS CHRISTMAS SESSION

We will be holding one of our ever popular Junior tennis sessions on Tuesday 19th December, including fun games and festive cheer! 5 to 9 year olds from 9.30am to 11.00am and then 10 to 15 year olds from 11.00am to 12.30pm. To confirm a place please contact John Seear on johnseear@hotmail.com or 01258 269743.

FESTIVE FUN DAY

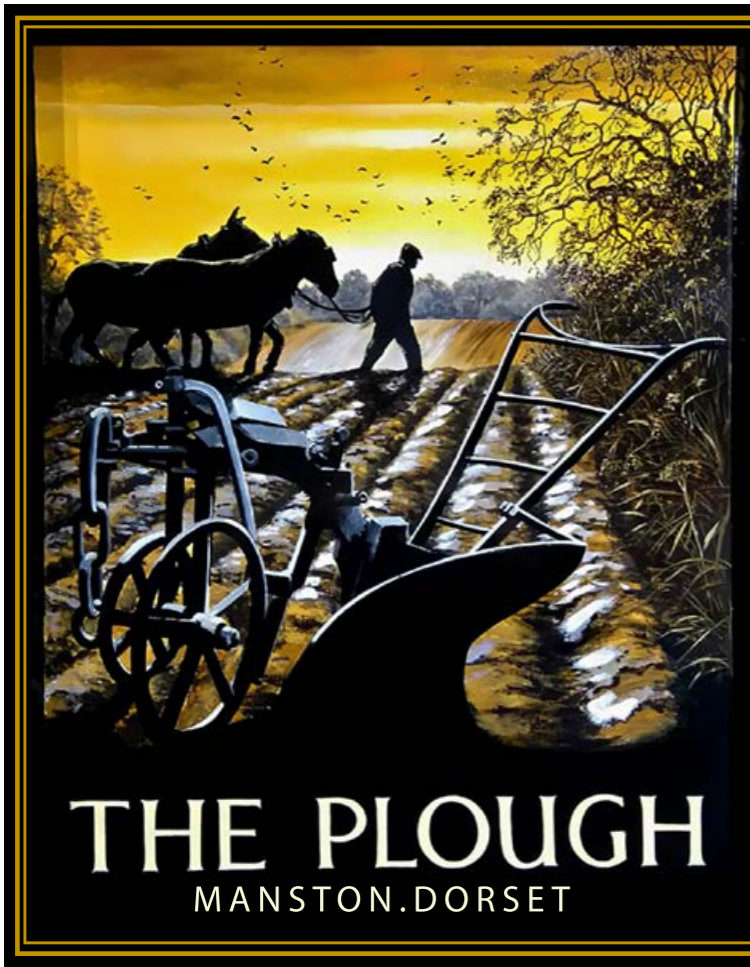
Adult and older teen members are invited to join us for an afternoon of fun games and festive tennis on Wednesday 27th December from 2.30pm – 4.30pm. There will be tea and treats afterwards, and for further information please contact John Seear on johnseear@hotmail.com or 01258 269743.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you have a spare hour here and there and would be interested in helping tidy up the courts, please contact John Seear on 01258 269743 or johnseear@hotmail.com who will add you to our volunteers list.

WHAT'S ON

- Friday morning club sessions 9.30am – 11.00am continue throughout the winter. This is open to everyone who wants to play, meet other members and enjoy some fresh air.
- If you're not a member or are visiting the area, you can book the courts on a pay and play basis for just £3.50 per hour! To book, contact either John Seear on 01258 269743 or Chris Gregory on 01258 474646.
- Our LTA accredited coach Graham Howell is always available for one to one or group coaching. You can contact him on 01747 837839 or



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07931 584778.

HALF PRICE MEMBERSHIP
It's never too late to pick up that racket! If you want to join the club, we're currently offering half price membership through to April 2024. That makes a single adult member just £26.00, seniors £23.00, and a junior membership only £6.00.

MARNHULL GREEN TEAMS

MARNHULL GREEN T-E-A-M-S

Taking the Environment Around Marnhull Seriously

What to do with used blister packs...?

One of the most popular lines at the Marnhull Hub recycling centre - behind the Village Hall on Saturday mornings, 10-12 - used to be empty tablet blister packs.

A lot of people in Marnhull take pills! Unfortunately we have had to cease our collection because the pharmacy which took them from us - Superdrug - were overwhelmed by the response.

You can still drop your empty packs at a branch of Superdrug if you're passing, but they can only accept them in small quantities. However, the supermarket Aldi have announced another small-scale scheme which will help.

Aldi has partnered with TerraCycle so that individuals can recycle all brands of empty medicine blister packs for free. To do this you need to create a TerraCycle account.

Google "Aldi recycle", follow the link, and select either 'household' or 'individual' from the drop-down list.

Join the Aldi Blister Pack Envelope Recycling Programme, download your prepaid shipping label, and follow the instructions.

You can have two labels per TerraCycle account per month, and will be able to put about thirty packs in each envelope you send in.

We are sorry that Marnhull Green Teams cannot do this for you - the quantities involved in the Superdrug and Aldi schemes have to be small - but do get in touch if you have any questions: email marnhullgreen@outlook.com or phone (01258) 268714.

Now: wind. Not the sort you might take pills for, but the weather phenomenon. We have a team interested in wind power generation, and they are seeking data sources.

Are you a Marnhull weather-watcher? Do you collect data on wind speed? If so, we would love to hear from you.

You can contact our wind team member James Brown direct, at north.down@btinternet.com, or get in touch via the Green Teams contacts.

Next, does anyone fancy a G&T...? We will be running another of our successful Giveaway and Takeaway Days in May 2024, encouraging the re-use of things you may no longer need but which someone else might.

May seems a long way off - but we mention the event now because Christmas is coming.

If Christmas gifts leave you with something surplus (maybe some of the gifts themselves!) please consider freecycling it, or storing it if you can for the next Marnhull G&T. The more we can re-use the better for everyone.

Finally, a reminder that Marnhull Green Teams are supporting the drafting of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

When filling in the Parish Council's survey, please raise any 'green' issues of concern to you, remembering that Dorset Council have declared a climate and ecological emergency.

And if you would like to join the Marnhull Green Team working on this, or simply want to share your environmental concerns and ideas, please get in touch, by emailing marnhullgreen@outlook.com or phoning (01258) 268714.

RECYCLE AT THE HUB

RECYCLE with TerraCycle

Marnhull Village Hall, Saturday mornings 10-12, and
Community Café, third Fridays 10-12

We can take:

- Beauty product packaging
- Bread bags *
- Cake and biscuit wrappers *
- Cheese wrappers *
- Coffee bags *
- Crisp packets *
- Disposable razors
- Laundry and dishwashing packaging *
- Milk bottle tops
- Pens of all sorts
- Pringles tubes
- Printer ink cartridges
- Sweet packets *
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste tubes

* Also accepted at Tesco / Asda / Co-op soft plastic recycling bins

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Another Remembrance period has come to an end and it appears to have been quite successful. Sadly the Messenger deadline does not give us enough time for a final count but it seems to have been quite good. Thanks go to our intrepid collectors who went door to door and all who contributed. More in the

February edition.

The service at 11 o'clock on the 11th November led by the Reverend Gaenor Hockey was particularly well attended possibly because it was a Saturday and it was nice to see wreaths from both the schools in the village being laid on the memorial.

The two minutes silence was meticulously observed and Adrian Stone played the Last Post in his usual poignant fashion. There was also a good turnout at St Gregory's Church on Sunday afternoon following the parade from Butts Close to the Church.

Sadly the parade is getting smaller as time takes its toll but it was boosted by members of Gillingham Town Silver Band and the Army Cadets. Following the service wreaths were laid on the memorial by Marnhull Royal British Legion, Marnhull Parish Council, Marnhull Girls Brigade, the Lions International, Marnhull Women's Institute and the Army Cadets all expertly ordered by Parade Marshall Owen Wells.

Meanwhile the Club has a full programme of entertainment leading up to Christmas and New Year as can be seen below -

- December Entertainment
- Sat 2nd - Stage One
- Fri 8th - Vale Ukes 6 to 6.45
- Sat 9th - The Beagles
- Mon 11th - Lyn's Christmas Bingo
- Fri 15th - Open Mic Night 4.30 to 8
- Sat 16th - Jack' Christmas Quiz
- Fri 22nd - Live Music then the Christmas Draw
- New Year's Eve - DJ Bill Shannon plays 70's 80's and 90's
- £5 entry in aid of Shelterbox

For Branch Business contact Jack Whitehead on 01258 820800
Or whiteheadjack51@gmail.com
Club business contact Tony Junge on 01258 820800

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Contact details for Your Dorset Councillor
Graham Carr-Jones

☎ 01963 364005

✉ Clrgraham.carr-jones@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Graham Carr-Jones
Stalbridge & Marnhull

Cabinet Member for
Housing, Community Safety
& Emergency Planning



**THE MARNHULL PLAYERS
PRESENTS**

**BEAUTY AND
THE BEAST**

**MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL
DT10 1PP**

**FRIDAY
2ND
FEBRUARY
7PM**

**SATURDAY
3RD
FEBRUARY
2PM AND 7PM**

**SUNDAY
4TH
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2PM**

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MARNHULL HORSE RIDERS

MARNHULL HORSE RIDERS

Winter days are here and it's just generally quite a bit gloomier, so what do you need to consider when buying Hi Viz for riding? We recommend a minimum of a hi viz tabard or jacket for the rider, wear led lights where possible. Ideally some that give the width of the horse.

When choosing what colour to wear, consider the colour of your horse and what would stand out the most against it.



At certain times of the year you will blend in to the background or hedgerow when wearing certain colours – and cannot be easily seen.

You can also choose to wear hi viz accessories such as hat band, ankle straps and lightweight harness. Never assume that it will be OK – because one day it might not be. These things do make a difference.




BE SEEN, MAKE YOURSELF & YOUR HORSE VISIBLE – what have you got to lose?

Don't cling to the left hand side of the road when out hacking. Make sure you are about 1 meter from the edge of the pavement. It is now written in the Highway Code that drivers need to pass horses giving a 2 meter distance.

I should add however, our lanes are narrow and frequently this is not possible. But if you are in a narrow lane and a car comes, put up your hand to tell the driver to STOP and then show your intention to move in to a safe area so that the car can pass.

Always thank the driver if they have been kind and considerate to you both. This small gesture WILL be remembered. If you want any advice please contact Rosie on Marnhull Horse Riders Facebook page.



MARNHULL FLOWER SHOW

Marnhull Flower Show

Every year the Marnhull Flower Show has a Charity Class, where all entry fees from that Class go to a chosen charity, together with a donation from the proceeds of the Show. For last year's Charity Class we asked people to make fiddle muffs, which are sensory comforts, especially calming for people with dementia and other conditions.

We were delighted to be able to make a contribution of £100 to the Stalbridge Mindful Café, as well as finding a grateful home for the fiddle muffs at the Old Rectory in Stalbridge. Many thanks to all those who entered.

This year, the Charity Class will be 'Flower Pot Person or People' and we will be supporting Weldmar Hospice Care, a Dorset Charity which provides specialist end of life care for adults with a life limiting illness and support for their loved ones. All of their care is provided free of charge, but only 20% of their funds are provided by the NHS - with the support of the local community, they need to raise £26,000 per day, in order to continue their services.



We're very much hoping that everyone in the village will support Weldmar by creating their own Flower Pot Person(s) and entering them in the Show. It would be great to see them throughout the village and we'll be asking you to display them in your garden or workspace, where they can be easily seen from the road, so that that everyone can enjoy them. The Class will be judged in the week before the Show.

Let's turn Marnhull into a veritable village of Flobalobs - as Bill and Ben might well have said! And here's one we made earlier...

Marnhull Flower Show Committee

MARNHULL ENTERTAINS SURVEY RESULTS 2023

Thank you to everybody who took part in our survey. Here are the results:

66% Very satisfied or satisfied

87% want an event every month

2 out of 3 attend regularly

104 Residents took part in our survey

29 Volunteers offered help

TOP 3 FAVOURITE GENRES
Comedy
Drama
Adventure

Mixed interest for MATINEES
10% want matinees for children's films

60% attend regularly

59% satisfied (of those 27% very satisfied)

60% attend regularly

FAVOURITE GENRES
Theatre
Classical Concerts
Musicals

73% want both live and streamed events

73% want both live and streamed events

Most people said they would pay **£10-£20** per ticket

Most people want a show every **3 MONTHS**

Most people want a show every **2 - 3 MONTHS**

FAVOURITE GENRES
Theatre
Concerts
Musicals

We're improving our programme thanks to your feedback

COMING UP
at Marnhull Village Hall
Burton Street, DT10 1PP

Barbie An evening of (very) old Radio	Dec 23rd 7:30pm
Jack Absolute Flies Again	Jan 27th 7:30pm
	Feb tba

Tickets: available from the Post Office (Robin Hill Stores), the Spar or on the door.

MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

The Village Hall Lottery Scheme to close

The Marnhull Village Hall Lottery which has been running in its new form for some three years now, has now closed.

The Scheme, raised over £1500 for the Village Hall during the first two years.

£1200 in the first year, £300 in the second. The Village Hall Trustees are extremely grateful to all those who have bought tickets.

Regrettably this year, the scheme is not covering costs and is heading for a deficit. The Trustees have reluctantly taken the decision to close the scheme and refund any outstanding ticket money on the basis of draws entered so far.

The reasons for the decline in ticket sales are not difficult to pinpoint given the current cost of living issues, the secure Village Hall Finances and perhaps a little 'fund raising fatigue' after the magnificent efforts to raise the £200,000 required to upgrade the hall.

The Trustees are aware that there have been a number of comments from the village community about better ways to raise funds for targeted projects in the future.

The Trustees thanks all those who have supported the scheme in the past, which has helped to keep the hall the vibrant and comfortable community space that it is.

Rob Norton
Marnhull Village Hall Treasurer.

MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL

Just to say a BIG THANK YOU to all the people who help make the Tombola at Marnhull Flower Show successful (despite the weather), raising £177.00 for Village Hall funds. So, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tina Matthews



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North Dorset CPRE

"SAD DAY FOR LOCAL DEMOCRACY AS WYATT HOMES BLANDFORD DEVELOPMENT APPROVED"

This week the Northern Area Planning Committee for Dorset Council approved by 7-1 the application by Wyatt Homes to build 490 homes between Blandford and Pimperne. North Dorset CPRE, Pimperne Parish Council, the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and local residents had been campaigning to stop this development on the following key ground:

Housing needs were well provided for already in North Dorset, especially in Blandford and Pimperne. Questionable evidence of the need for a new school, which would be paid for by Section 106 developer funding tied to this application.

Harm to the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), on whose land some of the development would be built. Conflict with Pimperne's Neighbourhood Plan, as 150 homes would be built within their parish.

News last month that there was now more than a five year housing land supply in North Dorset with planning decisions supposedly following development plans, made campaigners more confident that they stood a good chance of stopping the developers.

Housing targets in the North Dorset Local Plan for Blandford Forum and St Mary, as well as in the surrounding villages had been exceeded thanks to a massive building programme in recent years.

There was little evidence of the need for a new school with data showing declining school rolls, and if there was need later, surely this could be achieved more cheaply with a few extra classrooms?

Granting permission would also result in severe traffic congestion for Blandford and place more pressure on Blandford's creaking infrastructure.

The AONB would be harmed with views to and from the AONB seriously affected, and good farmland, which contributes to food security and acts as a carbon sink against climate change, sacrificed.

150 dwellings would be built in the parish of Pimperne, threatening the important "gap" between the village and Blandford, in direct conflict with Pimperne's recently re-made Neighbourhood Plan.

The planning officer's report acknowledged that there was a conflict with the council's development plan, which said building in the countryside should be resisted. However committee members seemed determined to approve yet more housing, with little regard for the harm it would cause to local residents, the AONB and Pimperne.

Admittedly the development is well designed, but is clearly in the wrong place. One wonders about the composition of the committee with no members on it representing Blandford. One can also speculate that Dorset Council was keen to avoid a costly appeal should they have refused it.

It was particularly galling for Pimperne Parish Council Chairman Peter Slocombe who spent hundreds of hours with volunteers to create the Neighbourhood Plan, which was flouted both here and in a previous recent planning application, that Pimperne will receive no Section 106 benefits at all.

He said: "It is a sad day for local democracy. This decision sends a clear message to Dorset villages that it is hardly worth creating these Plans that were initiated by the government over a decade ago."

CONTACTS:

Rupert Hardy, Chair North Dorset CPRE, 07803907711

Peter Slocombe, Chair Pimperne Parish Council. 01258-453419 M 07979-592288

Jan Fairman, Pimperne Parish Council Clerk, 01258-480046

Richard Burden, Cranborne Chase AONB, 01725-517417 (Mon-Wed)

Angela Willis, Press Contact, Cranborne Chase, AONB 01725-517417 (Mon-Thurs up to 2.30pm)



View over site of Wyatt Homes approved development on rolling downland in the parish of Pimperne

BERYL COOKE

Beryl Cooke sends Christmas Greetings and Love to all her dear friends in Marnhull to whom she usually delivers cards in person! I have enjoyed doing this for many years now, but it has become more difficult on my own - jumping in and out of the car, while daylight remains, etc! - albeit very enjoyable, especially when I happen to see someone to have a little chat. So please forgive me this year, but I hope you will all have a Happy and Blessed Christmas with Peace and Prosperity in 2024! Some of you will know that I plan to move back to Hertfordshire in the not-too-distant future (to be near Tim, our eldest) so next year I shall have to fall back on Royal Mail!

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA PRESENT

Christmas

YULETIDE FAIR

Join us for a festive evening of shopping, food and entertainment. Come and browse local businesses including beauty products, baked goods, handmade and locally sourced gifts. Visit Santa's grotto, enjoy the children's games & activities, listen to Marnhull Community Choir sing some festive songs whilst sipping on a luxury Hot Chocolate. We will also be drawing our fantastic raffle.

DECEMBER 8 6-9PM

MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL

MARNHULL PLAYERS PANTO

Rehearsals are in full flow now props, characterisation and costumes are started to come to light now. Starting to work on those dances too, that make the show so lively.

I would like to thank Irina for donating some of her amazing paintings, some will be in a raffle and we are thinking of a silent auction, keep a look out for more information.

If any one has any cardboard or materials that we could use to make props or costumes, we also need raffle prizes, if any one has anything lying around.

Let us know and we will arrange to collect or somewhere it can be dropped off.

If there are any local businesses that would like to advertise in the programme let us know so we can send prices.

We are so pleased that we have a very strong team to keep the panto magic alive in Marnhull and we are all very excited about this upcoming panto.

Tickets on sale now, from Robin Hill and Marnhull Spar stores.
The Performance dates for 2024 are:
Friday 2nd February 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
An exciting year ahead.

Thanks
The Committee and Cast

Pound



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 ripstixs 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

VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER

Marnhull Churches Together raised £240 at the Village Harvest Supper in October and wish to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who supported the evening. The cheque was grateful received when presented to Bruce for the Gillingham Food Bank by, from the left, Jacintha, Jannie and Gillian.



Marnhull Entertains Presents

MARNHULL ENTERTAINS

in association with

DORSET MOVIOLA

BARBIE (PG-13)

Marnhull Village Hall

Saturday 23 December

at 3.00 pm

Doors open 2.30 pm

Tickets: FREE for all

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM MARNHULL ENTERTAINS COMMITTEE



You do need a ticket though as numbers are limited.

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Barbie and Ken are having the time of their lives in the colourful and seemingly perfect world of Barbie Land. However, when they get a chance to go to the real world, they soon discover the joys and perils of living among humans.

MARNHULL MUSIC SOCIETY

Shirley Blackford's presentation featured a rather lighter strain of music than we hear at our usual concerts. It soon became plain that her heart is in the musical theatre and films of the 20's and 30's.

We heard, with nostalgia, "We'll Gather Lilacs" sung by Ivor Novello and Vivienne Lee, "Girls were made to love and kiss" from the operetta "Paganini" by Franz Lehar and sung by Richard Tauber, The Harry Lime Theme, and "Autumn Leaves".

"I have never heard any Mozart that I didn't like" said Shirley, and she included his utterly enchanting Waltz No. 1 and also the adagio from the 23rd piano concerto. The same accolade applied to Chopin and we heard the beautiful piano and cello combo in his sonata in G major.

A darker strain appeared with Richard Addison's "Warsaw Concerto", capturing the tensions and menace of the film "Dangerous Moonlight" for which it was composed, and Shirley opted for some grandly serious Beethoven with a long passage from his 9th symphony.

With some other personal favourites such as "Ol' Man River" sung by Ivan Rebroff and Acker Bilk's "Stranger on the Shore" we finished a pleasant evening of memories with Kiri te Kanawa singing "Now is the Hour."

In December we have our Christmas Party with mulled wine, mince pies, a bran tub and, of course, a programme of seasonal music.

BLACKMORE VALE ART GROUP

Twenty three artists had a most unusual and somewhat daunting exercise at the October meeting of the group. Tutor Maggie Farmer brought along a dancer so that we could try to capture the essence of movement.

We worked mainly in chalks or pastels on long rolls of paper, striving to create the flow of the dance with simple lines.

It has to be admitted that no-one produced masterpiece but the whole exercise was stimulating and we went home tired but with new ideas for future work.

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OUR LADY'S CHURCH



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

Advent
Advent marks the beginning of the Church's year. Advent is the liturgical season that precedes and prepares us for Christmas. It is a season of hope and of longing, of joyful expectation and of peaceful preparation. Advent is that time of the year when we prepare to welcome Jesus into the world and our lives again.



Christmas Mass times:
Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December
Our Lady's, Marnhull 6pm St Benedict's,
Gillingham 8pm
Christmas Day Monday 25th December
Our Lady's, Marnhull 9am St Benedict's,
Gillingham 11am



World Gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families experiencing poverty.

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This gives us the flexibility to respond in the best way possible to the individual needs of the different communities we work with all over the world.

Poverty often means people have no access to medical care. The World Gifts Health fund supports healthcare, plus care for the most vulnerable people in poor communities. Visit: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>



Are you 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

THE METHODIST CHURCH

The Churches Together Village Harvest Supper on 13th October was really good and we were treated to folk reading, or in one instance beautifully singing, the poems they had submitted.

One lady who had recently moved to the village read a most lovely poem she had written. Yes, so all in all, an enjoyable and well attended event.

To put the icing on the cake the sum of £240.00 was raised and donated to the Gillingham Food Bank so a big thank you to everyone!

Well, time rolls on, and the next big service at the Methodist Church is our CANDLELIT FAMILY CAROL SERVICE from 4.15pm for mince pies, with the service itself at 5.00pm on WEDNESDAY 20th DECEMBER.

We are fortunate that Stephen Binnington is playing the organ and you, your friends and family are most welcome to come along, enjoy singing and have a time of reflection about the true meaning of Christmas celebrations.



We hope to have the words of the carols projected onto a screen but, just in case of tech failure, please bring a torch along to shine on to your hymn book! It will make for a safer journey home too if you are walking...

The Salvation Army will again benefit from the collection at the Carol Service as they do such good work across all age groups and with the homeless.

*On Sunday 24th December there will not be a service.
*On Monday 25th December there will be a short service at 09.30 to give thanks for Jesus' birth. Again, you are welcome to come and join us.

As, sadly, things haven't changed I'm repeating what I wrote last month: 'Hearing and seeing all the terrible things happening in the world is just awful. We ask why, but there seems to be no answer except mans' inhumanity.

Will you, along with millions around the world of all faiths, pray that the men of hatred, terror and war will lay down their weapons and will talk peace - and mean it.

You may not believe prayer helps but if enough of us join in prayers for peace.....'

Lastly, I hope you have a peaceful and happy Christmas and wish you all the best for 2024, and remember - "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever." Psalm 118 v 29
Gillian

BISHOP'S LETTER

Forward to Adventure!

In my former parish, there were various experiments we made to make the most of the unique atmosphere of preparation and excitement accompanying Advent.

Shortest-lived was what we called the Nativity Crawl, which involved the familiar festive cast dressed in costume and released in stages onto the high street, to work their way along the five pubs situated there, finding 'no room at the inn' until culminating (with carols and swaddled doll) in carols at the last pub en route. It was fun but didn't quite catch light.

More successful was what we called The Adventure, whereby each evening in Advent, a small space around the benefice – someone's garage, or a school porch – would open for just one hour to give a glimpse of something festive and hope-filled.

Different households or groups would take responsibility for one night each, so the load was spread: some would simply sing carols and serve mulled wine, others were more adventurous and creative, but all were exciting steps along the way to Christmas Eve, which took place in the lychgate of one of the churches.

I recall this project (which wasn't my idea, by the way) fondly, because it began to change the rumour about church in the community and brought alive a season that still kindles spiritual yearnings among so many.

My seventeen-year-old daughter told me this week that 'getting ready for the party is better even than the party itself'. In Advent, I'm inclined to agree.

God bless,
Allana

COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Community Choir got off to a fine start this term with 5 new members joining our mixed choir of 56 enthusiastic singers and have been rehearsing hard in preparation for their festive performances in the Village Hall this December.

The choir will be offering two performances of Winter Serenade at 7.30pm on either Friday 1st December or Saturday 2nd December - an evening of songs reflecting the weather and festive moments, including carols, soloists and chorus.

Songs include Blue Moon, Stormy Weather, Blow the Wind Southerly, Mid-winter, Ave Verum and much more.

Tickets are £10.00 or Under 16's £5.00 and include a free glass of mulled wine or fruit punch and a homemade mince pie.

Available at Robin Hill Stores and Marnhull Stores

MARNHULL SUMMARY EMAIL

Many of us are very happy using the internet for emails, buying items and even catching up on TV programmes, but not necessarily social media such as FaceBook.

However, Marnhull Village does have a FaceBook page, where those who live in the village can exchange information (at the moment about which roads are flooded) ask for help, advertise local events such as Moviola, Community Cafe, quizzes etc.

If you would like to know what's happening on the village FaceBook page but don't want to use social media, Ros Eveleigh produces a weekly email with a good summary of what you're missing! To sign up please contact her on rseveleigh@icloud.com

Even if you are on Facebook it is easy to miss news items, so this email is a way to get a quick summary of Marnhull news.

ST GREGORY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



The children have had a very busy start to this half term and, despite the weather, have been fully involved in a range of exciting activities outside. Hedgehogs Class has been on a much-needed litter-pick around the village, while Badgers Class has toured the environment looking at the wide range of architecture, road structures and amenities the village has to offer.

Foxes Class has managed to combine their hard work in the classroom with some wonderful events - for details read their class message below.

With 2024 being the 150th Anniversary of the school's foundation, we are looking to hold a series of celebrations to mark this special point in our history. Look out in these pages and on the school's website for our plans, and do get in touch if you would like to be involved.



Foxes Class

The last few weeks have been filled with brilliant activities, with a 4-day/3-night visit to North Devon. Climbing walls, archery, trapeze, bush-craft, abseiling, orienteering and lots of singing was a great experience for Years 5 and 6; for some of them it was their first time away from family and their confidence grew enormously over the trip.

Back in school, the Year 6 children put together their poignant Remembrance Service, held in the St Gregory's Church, and the school presented a wreath at the village service on 11th November.

On the sporting front, our Tag Rugby team had a wet but exciting tournament against local schools at the North Dorset Rugby Ground, playing superbly as a team, beating squads from much larger schools and really doing themselves proud.



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Explorers Preschool



The excitement of fireworks was sky high this month at Explorers. The children watched a display in the comfort of the classroom using the interactive whiteboard.

Following this they exploded with creativity capturing their own firework pictures using straws paint and glitter.

They have learnt that fireworks are used to mark different occasions at this time of year including Diwali.

The children also made some very tasty edible sparklers, they were able to observe the changes in chocolate when it was heated and then cooled.

The children continue to enjoy daily fine motor activities working on their pre-writing skills.



St Mary's Explorers is open from 8:45 am - 3:15 pm every weekday during term time and spaces are available for children aged 3+ with wrap around care from 8am - 6pm on request. Please make enquiries by calling 01258 820417.

St Anthony's

In our RE lessons the children have been learning about the importance of belonging to different families - these included home, school and church.

We learnt that some parents choose for their babies to be part of a church family. The children then recreated the special sacrament of Baptism with one of our class dolls. They were very sincere in their different roles.



St Mark's

In Science, we have been looking at habitats and micro habitats. We braved the wind and rain and took our learning outside of the classroom. The children had time to discover different micro habitats around the school.

The children are beginning to understand what makes a living thing alive and using the acronym of MRS GREN to help them remember the characteristics of a living thing.

St Francis'

The children of St Francis' class have had a great start to October half term. As a class we have set ourselves the target to read 2 million words by Christmas.

We have started our Geography topic on Climates around the world. During our English lessons, we will be starting to write our independent diary entry as a friend of Tutankhamun this week before starting a new narrative topic next week.

We have been reading a lovely book called 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane' in our Guided reading, which shows the journey of a ceramic rabbit learning the importance of love.

St Albans'

In St Alban's class, we have recently started our new topic all about our local area and the changes over time. The children have worked hard to complete their own scaled drawings of Marnhull as well as explore some of the events from the past which have helped shape Marnhull today.

We have also started our new science topic, 'Light'. The children have been busy investigating which colours reflect light the best and how shadows change throughout the day.

Recently, the children have also completed their Level 2 Bikeability course. The instructor was extremely impressed with the children's awareness for street safety as well as their behaviour out in public. A big well done to them all.

PARISH COUNCIL - SPEED WATCH GROUP

Back in May 2019, our Community Speed Watch (CSW) came in to being. With equipment purchased by the Parish Council, this small volunteer group carried out a number of sessions by the roadside at various locations around the village.

Then along came COVID and all operations ceased.

The Parish Council would very much like to restart the CSW group and is looking for volunteers for this.

Being a volunteer does not take up much time. Roadside sessions will generally take place once or twice a month and last for just a couple of hours or so.

Training consists of about half a day with Dorset Police and will either take place here in the village if enough volunteers require it or otherwise in Dorchester.

A new co-ordinator will also be required. This person is the link between the group and Dorset Police and will arrange the roadside sessions and feed back results of each session to the police.

The Parish Council has been called upon to look into establishing a 20mph zone or zones in the village.

Dorset Council have also just recently published a procedure that determines the steps that communities need to undertake in order to be considered for 20mph zones.

The first step is to have an operational CSW group. If you are at all concerned about traffic speeding on our roads and want to do something to help, please consider volunteering.

If you do want to volunteer or want further information. Please contact Steve Finch by email; steve.finch@marnhull-pc.org.uk

VOLUNTEER DIGITAL CHAMPION

Dorset Council's volunteer digital champions available to speak at community groups Dorset Council's volunteer digital champions are friendly volunteers who can help people get online and increase their confidence with all things digital.

They provide face-to-face support in libraries across the county and are now extending the service to community groups and organisations Community organisations can, on a one-off basis, book a digital champion to talk to their group.

The digital champion can also carry out a troubleshooting session on any digital issues people might have.

Any community group that would like to book a digital champion can do so by booking at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/book-a-digital-champion



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL MARNHULL PTEA
PRESENT

Afternoon Tea with Santa

£10 pp

Saturday 9th December
2 x 1.5hr slots: 11:30am-1pm & 1:30pm-3pm

Ticket includes:
-Afternoon tea including festive sweet & savoury treats and refreshments.
-A visit to Santas grotto & present for every child
-A Christmas story with Santa
-Christmas colouring & games
Lots of festive fun to be had!

Held at St Mary's School, Marnhull, Old Mill Lane, DT10 1JX

FOR TICKETS PLEASE EMAIL
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This is a fundraising event and all profits go back into the school



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COST: - £55.00

Includes: all materials, glass of fizz, soft drinks, mince pies and lots and lots of festive cheer

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:

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Please note: If you wish to make a mantelpiece garland we are also holding these workshops at The Writers Block Cafe at Clayesmore School.

Please contact us on the contact details above for the information of these courses. We can also arrange workshops for groups of 8+ if required.



On Friday, October 20th, Marnhull Village Care were delighted to host the 2023 Newcomer's Party giving those villagers who have moved here during the last 12 months the opportunity to meet up and chat with some of the many Clubs and Societies that are active here.

Out of a total of 63 attendees there were 29 newcomers who were able to make it on the night and they enjoyed a warm welcome at the door made even warmer by the home produced canapés and the wine and soft drinks on offer!



There were 14 Clubs and Societies represented: the Marnhull Ramblers; Community Café; WI; Lunch Club; Community Choir; Green Teams; Table Tennis; The Hub; Marnhull Entertains; Garden Club; Tennis Club; Marnhull Players; Neighbourhood Development Plan and your Parish Council.

With at least one representative from each club there was already a good buzz in the hall before any other guests arrived!

Also present were a number of the Road Contacts who play such a vital role within Marnhull Village Care in welcoming new arrivals into their "patch" and offering information on the local area and activities.

Trevor Vaughan, as Chair of Marnhull Village Care, gave the official welcome to everyone and was followed by Angus Mayhew representing the 3 churches who originally set up MVC nearly 50 years ago.

Our thanks go to all the villagers who gave up their Friday evening either to attend as a newcomer, a club representative, a representative of MVC or as an invited guest.

Your presence made the evening lively and enjoyable! All of the new villagers were given a Welcome Pack as they left, containing information leaflets about as many of the Clubs and Societies in the village as possible.

To give you an idea of how busy we all are there were 28 leaflets included and we know we didn't capture everyone!

Huge thanks go to both Atul at Robin Hill Stores and Tom at the Spar for being so kind as to offer the wines and soft drinks at reduced rates for us – that was most appreciated!

We have gathered feedback from some of the people who attended so we can make next year's event even more successful. In the meantime, if you have just recently moved into the village and either were not able to be at the party or have arrived after it happened please let your Road Contact or MVC know and we will make sure you receive a Welcome Pack.

Chair: Trevor Vaughan – trevorvaughan.mvc@gmail.com
Secretary: Ann Davis-Penson – ann@alisarconsulting.com

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
Heritage Trust

Carols at the Mill



Conducted by
Rev'd Mary Gubbins

Wednesday 6th December 7pm

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies available

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25TH NOVEMBER 2ND DECEMBER 9TH DECEMBER

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THE EXCHANGE



IMPACT ARTICLE

We rest in silence.
My friend and old neighbour, living in limbo. In another county, another place – everywhere. In and out of health, in and out of kind, magnolia care home.

Staff give us privacy with door ajar, cricket is muted, medical supplies in his cupboards kindly wait for him.

Dear Michael. His life was rich and of great service. His faith was prayer book gentleness and democratised Word of God.

His Lord was to be praised and served. His simple validation of my long journey to ordination was not fussy or wordy. There was just a kind eye and a request to be invited to the ordination.

Michael was a living sacrifice working for God's praise and glory. But now, after his stroke, he needed to allow Christ to serve him.

The care home cared with patience and Englishness and tea. Carpeted and warm with no risk or fresh air, Michael waited. His stroke prevented him from reading.

My vacuous, 1970's English reply was to encourage use of the TV and radio and visitors. 'Make do and mend!' I say bleakly, hoping we could change the subject.

This dear, bright man stuttered and stammered. Michael's imagination was fired through reading and reading the Gospel. A care home Bible lay within easy reach, impossible and excluding.

He was my first care home communion. I had no answers for his imprisonment. I wasn't sure my faith was enough for him. He sat, kindly but remotely, polite but reconciled to some kind of bleakness. His faith was about serving God as Christ taught in the Gospel.

He could no longer remember the Gospel or read it. He had forgotten God adored him. This was a foul prison of emptiness my dear friend waited in.

I brought a little wine and two wafers. I gave him a holding cross. You just hold it, you don't need words. We said the prayers of penitence. He had been so worried God was punishing him.

He wept. I told him about God's love for him and we asked for God's forgiveness for us. He looked up at the ceiling, weeping. God was with him. Serving him. Forgiving him.

I read Psalm 23: The lord is my shepherd. We chatted. We prayed and I asked that God reveal himself in a way Michael could understand now.

We shared Holy Communion and prayed the Lord's Prayer together. He looked up at the ceiling, weeping. God was with him. Serving him. Nourishing him.

We committed ourselves to be a living sacrifice for our Lord. He looked up at the ceiling again and wept. God was with him. Serving him. Meeting him. Transforming him.

This was Michael's Advent journey.

We will be starting our Advent journey to Christmas.

The season of Advent invites us to consider the nature of God – to journey from the sadness of a possibility of being without God, imprisoned and unable to see or hear him; to the outrageous joy of meeting our Incarnational God, in the Christ child at Christmas.

After enduring a period of bleak introspection without God – we can delight in the crazy love of our God coming to be with us forever. Our Emmanuel, God with us, who will forgive, nourish and transform us!

Happy Christmas!

God bless, Angus



**MARNHULL
COMMUNITY CAFÉ**

2024 Café dates, the 3rd Friday each month, At the Village Hall, 10-12

January 19

February 16

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 20



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Columnists Wanted

We're exploring the idea of having premium columnists next year. Do you know anyone interested in writing a column about their field of expertise? Ideas; Online safety, gardening, money saving, etc.

These pages will carry a fresh professional design highlighting the individual's brand. There would be a small fee to cover some of our print costs, but you can promote your business to our readers. If you're interested, email editor@marnhullmessenger.org.uk

MARNHULL LUNCH CLUB

The club meets on the first Friday for every month in the Village Hall, except for January.

We are a friendly and thriving club and are always looking for volunteers to help out. If you are new to the village, or even if you have lived here for a while, and have a few hours to spare, we would love to hear from you.

If you would like to join our rota to help set tables, serve the lunch or volunteer on the driver's roster to pick up guests who cannot make their own way, please get in touch.

Although the club meets every month you would not be obliged to commit to every meeting, but if you can help in any way it would be much appreciated.

For more information about the club and the volunteer roles, please contact
Liz 01258 821378 or Dawn 01258 820642

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NEWS FROM TRADING STANDARDS

Loan sharks

You may picture a loan shark as a TV soap gangster, but in reality, they are not always that easy to spot.

Illegal money lenders could be a neighbour who always stops to chat, a parent who you know from the school gate, a popular work colleague, even a long-standing family friend. All are expert manipulators, often befriending victims and offering a quick-fix loan.

Around Christmas they may be more active than usual, aware that with the cost-of-living crisis, people may be under increasing financial pressure.

Victims often aren't aware that they have borrowed from a loan shark until it's too late. Many people who report loan sharks think they were borrowing money from a friend.

However, things can quickly turn nasty as they demand extortionate repayments and threaten violence when you can't pay.

Often people turn to loan sharks looking for a small amount of money over a short period of time to cover unexpected expenses. They may have been refused credit elsewhere and need cash at short notice. In the cost-of-living crisis, more people are being forced to borrow to cover basic living costs such as bills and food.

You may be dealing with a loan shark if:

- You are given no paperwork or details about the loan
- Repayments are adding up to much more than you borrowed
- You are intimidated if you struggle to pay
- They demand items like bank cards or a passport until you can pay

Credit unions offer an alternative, ethical and safe way of borrowing for people who may have been refused credit elsewhere. They can offer small loans at affordable rates. Visit www.findyourcreditunion.co.uk to find one nearest to you.

The England Illegal Money Lending Team work in partnership with Trading Standards to investigate and prosecute illegal lenders and support victims.

If you think you have been targeted by a loan shark then visit the England Illegal Money Lending Team website www.stoploansharks.co.uk, call their 24/7 confidential hotline 0300 555 2222, or text a report to 078600 22116.

MARNHULL WOMENS' INSTITUTE

It is hard to imagine anyone more at home in front of an audience than Grace Lovelass. With her animated face, expressive hands, balletic movement and even her curious pink jumper, she is a born performer.

Grace told us that she started taking part in small shows and pantomimes from the age of four and although she had a chance to commit to a classical operatic training at the age of 14 when her singing talent became recognised, she drew back.

Instead she went to university and took a degree in Classics which led to a job in PR with a marketing company. In the meantime she dedicated her free time to athletics and has completed three Iron Man challenges.

After ten years she had become the acting head of marketing for Dorset Police. But the call of the footlights was still strong and so Grace began to take part in amateur operatic performances while studying voice training under a series of coaches, and eventually became a self-employed operatic singer.

Being a mezzo-soprano (the middle range of the female voice) Grace told us her options for roles were (a) witches (e.g. Azucena in "Il Trovatore") (b) bitches (e.g. Carmen) or (c) Britches (e.g. Cherubino in "The Marriage of Figaro") which does cover a vast number of very exciting roles.

Grace told us some entertaining anecdotes about her auditions and her often surprising singing engagements, and got us all on our feet blowing raspberries. It was certainly an insight into a very unusual lifestyle. In December we have our Christmas party.

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.

Tea with Friends

Our monthly get together for cuppa, cake and a chance to chat. Wednesday 8th November Methodist Church Hall 2.30 to 4pm. ALL WELCOME

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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)
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ALL COACHING FREE (Badminton England Coach)
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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

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 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

MARNHULL GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club meets at 7.30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the most months, in Marnhull Village Hall.
 Come and join us for refreshments and a chat. We usually have a guest speaker and learn some new gardening tips.
 Chairman: Mr David Bruce, bruce11@sky.com - 01258 820569 / 07867 553442
 Secretary: Julie Reeves, marnhullgardenclub@gmail.com - 01258 820560
 Treasurer: Lesley Ruth, LesleyRuth4@AOL.com



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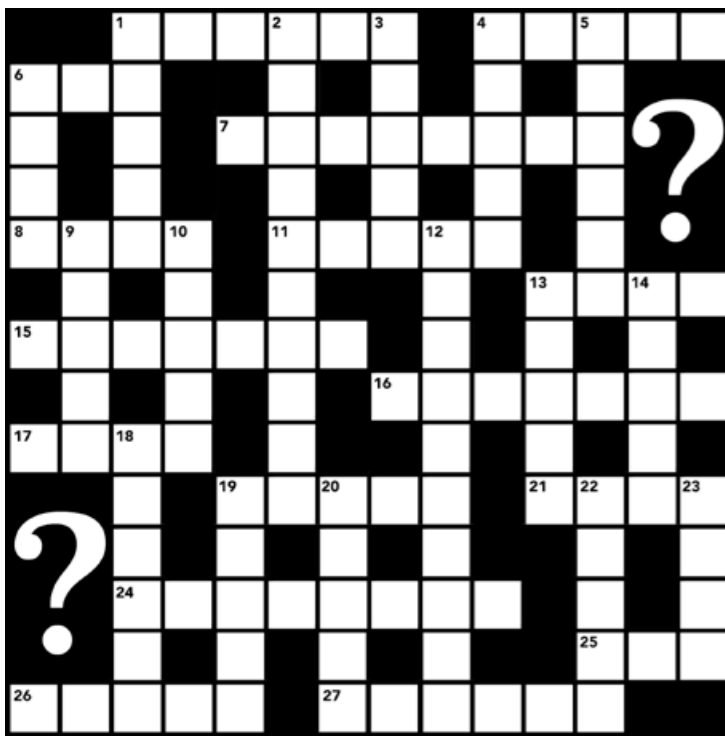
New Messenger Deadline: 14th January

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

ACROSS 1. Spacey 4. Oakum 6. Goa 7. Escargot 8. Asti
 11. Besom 13. Chad 15. Curacao 16. Barn owl 17. Lady
 19. Matzo 21. Nana 24. Bouillon 25. Ape 26. Grebe
 27. Phytic
 Down 1. Sabot 2. Casablanca 3. Years 4. Ofgem 5. Kitsch
 6. Gaga 9. Sauna 10. Italy 12. Oceanology 13. Canon
 14. Aswan 18. Dibble 19. Mouse 20. Tulip 22. Anzac 23. Adze



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

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

ACROSS

- 1) Kevin, US actor who became artistic director of the Old Vic in 2003. (6)
- 4) Fibre obtained by untwisting old rope and used for caulking wooden ships. (5)
- 6) Former Portuguese colony in 1987 being made India's 25th state. (3)
- 7) An edible snail. (8)
- 8) A light sparkling wine made in this Italian province. (4)
- 11) A broom made of twigs tied round a stick. (5)
- 13) Landlocked country in North Central Africa. (4)
- 15) Liqueur flavoured with the peel of bitter oranges. (7)
- 16) Bird of prey that nests in farm buildings. (7)
- 17) and 6D Name under which Stefani Germanotta became a pop star. (4-4)
- 19) Crisp biscuit of unleavened bread eaten by Jews at Passover. (5)
- 21) Name of the Newfoundland dog who was nurse to the Darling children in Peter Pan. (4)
- 24) Thin stock made by stewing meat, fish or vegetables. (8)
- 25) A tailless primate. (3)
- 26) Diving waterbird with a long neck. (5)
- 27) A medicinal drug (6)

DOWN

- 1) Simple shoe hollowed out from a single block of wood. (5)
- 2) Largest city in Morocco. (10)
- 3) Periods of time equal to how long it takes for the earth to orbit the sun. (5)
- 4) The organisation set up to protect energy consumers. (5)
- 5) German word used to describe things in popular culture that are considered tacky. (6)
- 6) See 17A. (4)
- 9) Small room used as a steam bath. (5)
- 10) Country that produces the most wine. (5)
- 12) Branch of technology concerned with human use of the sea. (10)
- 13) A member of the clergy on the staff of a Cathedral. (5)
- 14) Site of a high dam in Egypt. (5)
- 18) Pointed hand tool used for making holes in the ground for seeds or young plants. (6)
- 19) A small rodent. (5)
- 20) Bulbous spring flowering plant. (5)
- 22) Soldier from the antipodes during WW1. (5)
- 23) Tool similar to an axe with an arched blade at right angles to the handle. (4)

**All PUZZLE ANSWERS ON
PAGE 32**



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

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

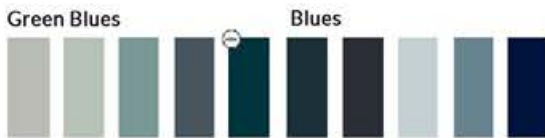
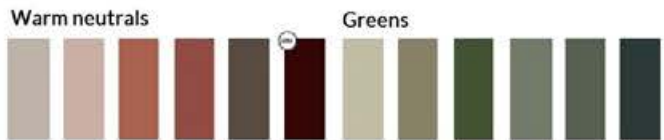


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