

THE MARNHULL MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2026 | ISSUE 160

www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk

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NEW TAEKWON-DO CLASSES

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WELCOME TO YOUR MARNHULL MESSENGER

CHRIS RYU
Messenger Editor



Welcome back to your Marnhull Messenger.

I hope you had a lovely festive period. Ours was a bit non-stop, so it was good to get back to work.

A new year means new advertisers, so a huge welcome to our new advertisers and thank you to our renewing ones. Your support keeps this magazine going.

Well done to Rosie Gall for getting everyone signed up and Mikey Ryu for placing all the adverts in the 2026 template. It appears that we're full again for another year.

Thanks again for your messages of support with my new Martial Arts club. We've opened 2 new venues and also teach 3 classes at Sandroyd School each week, so I've been super busy. Our student ages have now ranged from 3 - 62! By the time you read this, our students will be preparing for their second grading and some of them will be training hard for the South East Championship on 1st March.

As promised I signed up for the Tango and Jive course. Definitely not my kind of thing, but happy wife, happy life! Emma had a great time and it was a great date night each week. The line dancing classes at the Legion seem to be popular. Sara the instructor is now putting on extra classes at Buckhorn Weston for those that want to practice more.

We have space for a new column! If you would like to write a column, please get in touch.

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

Dial-a-Ride - Major & Immediate Emergencies Only - 07900 261182

Marnhull Village Care Car Service:

Marnhull Village Care offer a door-to-door car service for people in the parish who cannot arrange their own transport for essential trips; medical appointments, for example. Passengers pay their volunteer drivers according to a mileage scale in line with HMRC regulations. Call 07777 559076 for all enquiries.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

MID-DAY 14th February

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

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.

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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 2025

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

February

1st - Sunday	The Marnhull Player's Presents A Mermaid's Tail Pantomime @ 14:00	14th - Saturday	The Marnhull Hub and Repair Café @ 10:00 The Counterfeit Beatles - Beatles Tribute Act @ 20:30 British Legion Club	Bridge Club @ 13:30 Methodist Hall Pilates with Debbie @ 18:15 British Legion Club Marnhull Entertains - The Roses @ 19:00	
2nd - Monday	Pound Fitness @ 09:30 British Legion Club Table Tennis - Monday @ 14:00	16th - Monday	Pound Fitness @ 09:30 British Legion Club Table Tennis - Monday @ 14:00 Marnhull Music Society - Neil Sissons @ 19:15	25th - Wednesday	Fitsteps @ 10:45 Table Tennis - Wednesday @ 14:00 Community Choir @ 18:30 Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion Club
3rd - Tuesday	Art For Everyone @ 09:00 Walking Football @ 09:45 Village Recreation Ground Pilates with Debbie @ 10:00 British Legion Club Bridge Club @ 13:30 Methodist Hall Pilates with Debbie @ 18:15 British Legion Club	17th - Tuesday	Walking Football @ 09:45 Village Recreation Ground Pilates with Debbie @ 10:00 British Legion Club Bridge Club @ 13:30 Methodist Hall Pilates with Debbie @ 18:15 British Legion Club	27th - Friday	Pilates with Debbie @ 09:30 British Legion Club Figure Drawing @ 10:30
4th - Wednesday	Fitsteps @ 10:45 Table Tennis - Wednesday @ 14:00 Community Choir @ 18:30 Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion Club	18th - Wednesday	Fitsteps @ 10:45 Table Tennis - Wednesday @ 14:00 Community Choir @ 18:30 Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion Club	28th - Saturday	The Marnhull Hub and Repair Café @ 10:00 Barn Dance / Ceilidh with Teasing the Cat Band and Caller @ 19:00 Jack's Quiz @ 19:00 British Legion
5th - Thursday	Craft Club @ 10:00 Methodist Hall	20th - Friday	Pilates with Debbie @ 09:30 British Legion Club Marnhull Community Cafe @ 10:00 Vale Ukes @ 18:00 British Legion Club	March	
6th - Friday	Pilates with Debbie @ 09:30 British Legion Club Lunch With Friends @ 12:00 Line Dancing Class @ 19:00 British Legion Club	21st - Saturday	The Marnhull Hub and Repair Café @ 10:00 Deano @ 20:00 British Legion Club	2nd - Monday	Pound Fitness @ 09:30 British Legion Table Tennis - Monday @ 14:00 Lyn's Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion
7th - Saturday	The Marnhull Hub and Repair Café @ 10:00 Stage One @ 20:00 British Legion Club	23rd - Monday	Pound Fitness @ 09:30 British Legion Club Table Tennis - Monday @ 14:00	3rd - Tuesday	Walking Football @ 09:45 Village Recreation Ground Pilates with Debbie @ 10:00 British Legion Bridge Club @ 13:30 Methodist Hall Pilates with Debbie @ 18:15 British Legion
8th - Sunday	Marnhull Entertains- F1 The Movie @ 19:30	24th - Tuesday	Walking Football @ 09:45 Village Recreation Ground Pilates with Debbie @ 10:00 British Legion Club	4th - Wednesday	Fitsteps @ 10:45 Table Tennis - Wednesday @ 14:00 Community Choir @ 18:30 Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion
9th - Monday	Table Tennis - Monday @ 14:00 Women's Institute - Confessions of a Provincial Press Photographer @ 19:30			5th - Thursday	Craft Club @ 10:00 Methodist Hall
10th - Tuesday	Art For Everyone @ 09:00 Walking Football @ 09:45 Village Recreation Ground Pilates with Debbie @ 10:00 British Legion Club Bridge Club @ 13:30 Methodist Hall Pilates with Debbie @ 18:15 British Legion Club Garden Club AGM @ 19:00				
11th - Wednesday	Fitsteps @ 10:45 Table Tennis - Wednesday @ 14:00 Community Choir @ 18:30				
13th - Friday	Pilates with Debbie @ 09:30 British Legion Club Blackmore Vale Art Group @ 10:00 Artsreach & Marnhull Entertains - The Spy Who Loved Me Tender @ 19:30				

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

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FROM THE SURGERIES



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When the year changes, we think about lifestyle changes. If you're looking to become healthier, lose weight, get active, cut down on alcohol, or stop smoking - look no further.

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Register online at www.livewelldorset.co.uk or phone 0800 840 1628.

Urgent Dental Services

Did you know? Urgent dental services are available in Dorset, even if you are not registered with an NHS dentist. Patients can access these services quickly through NHS 111.

The Dorset Oral Health Programme has been co-designed with Public Health and a University partner to transform oral health in Dorset. The work has been recognised nationally, and the team are now co-authors developing the Chief Dental Officer England National Framework for Improving Oral Health in rural and coastal areas.

Mobile dental vans have been rolled out supporting vulnerable communities, including people experiencing homelessness and victims of domestic violence.

Dorset residents can also access urgent care via 111 with 26,000 appointments accessed since March this year. This is just the start of a journey to change the dental landscape in Dorset for the better.

For more information, please go to: <https://staywelldorset.nhs.uk/options/dental/>

Dorset Women's Podcast

Marianne Storey, Chair of Dorset Women CIC, an organisation that champions women's issues across a huge range of topics and Anjali Mavi, Radio Presenter, co-host a regular podcast on behalf of Dorset Women.

They'll explore topics which truly resonate with women from all backgrounds. They will tackle female health topics that matter most, from support for mental health and marginalised groups, to exploring why women are still so under-served for gynaecology and menopause provisions."

Marianne and Anjali chat with experts and health leaders from their respective fields, covering sexual health, mental health, reproductive services, and much more. Resident GP, Dr Emma Hayward, will be available between each episode to talk about what YOU can do right now if you're struggling with any of the topics mentioned on the show.

To access the Dorset Women website and the podcast www.dorsetwomen.org.uk

NORTH DORSET TRAILWAY NETWORK



Step Into Dorset's Green Heart - Connecting Communities, Nature and You

Once a railway line carrying goods and passengers across Dorset, the North Dorset Trailway is now something even more valuable: a peaceful, traffic-free green corridor that brings people, nature and communities together. Stretching for 14 miles from Sturminster Newton to Spetisbury, the Trailway offers a safe and welcoming space for everyone - from children learning to cycle and families enjoying a gentle walk, to horse riders, mobility scooter users and nature lovers seeking fresh air and calm.



The Trailway exists thanks to the dedication of local volunteers, supportive landowners, councils and partners, all working through the North Dorset Trailway Network (NDTN). Since forming in 2008 and becoming a charity in 2012, NDTN has championed sustainable travel, recreation and biodiversity, helping transform an old railway into a thriving community asset. With vital funding from Sustrans and the construction of landmark bridges at Fiddleford and Hodmoor, a long-held vision became reality in 2013.

Using the Trailway is about more than a pleasant day out. Every visit supports health and wellbeing, encourages greener travel, boosts local tourism and helps protect Dorset's rich natural environment. Whether you walk, cycle, ride or roll, the Trailway invites you to slow down, explore and rediscover the joy of Dorset's countryside. Visit www.northdorsettrailway.org.uk



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Marnhull Messenger Article February 2026

Message from the Chair of the Parish Council

A Happy New Year to you all!

I thought it would be useful to reflect on 2025 and to look ahead to 2026.

2025: - a very busy and at times testy year; not for the faint hearted! The first half of the year was dominated by the appeal on the Tess Square and Butts Close application that had been rejected by Dorset Council earlier in 2024. We decided to take an active involvement in the appeal itself, hiring a barrister and traffic and planning experts, but with no success, with Mr Crockers appeal being upheld by the Planning Inspector. I would like to thank all those that came along to the appeal hearing and especially to Steve Winder and Stephen Boyce for their expertise and enormous help gathering and collating all the evidence for the appeal submission.

We also saw further progress on the development at Burton Street (Durbeyfield Park) and at Crown Road. This progress has made S106 funds available for use by the village and the Parish Council has set up a Working Party to examine the priorities for enhancing the Recreation Ground using these S106 funds. More on this later.

The process to finalise and endorse the Neighbourhood Plan is nearing completion. My thanks to all those involved in the creation, review and update of the plan and answering all the questions raised during the reviews and by the external examiner.

2026: lets hope for a slightly less busy year this year. There are a number of initiatives that I hope will mature in 2026, these are:

- **Neighbourhood Plan** - we have just received the final report from the Inspector and subject to a couple of changes to the document, we are ready to send to Dorset Council for referendum, hopefully early in 2026. Please see the article from the NDP team for further information.

- **S106 commitments** - as mentioned above, we have set up a Working Party to look at what developments we would like at the Recreation ground, with S106 funding acting as a catalyst for some of these. We have met once before Christmas and we will meet again in January, February and March as we develop a draft 'blue print' for the future of the Recreation Ground that will be presented to the Parish Council for its approval. We have representatives from the Cricket, Walking Football and Tennis Clubs as well as the Men's Shed and users of the play area. We will be communicating our thoughts and ideas shortly. We are always keen to have further representation. If you want to join, please contact me in the first instance.

- **Invitation to Tender for Grounds Maintenance Services** - the contract for the upkeep of the Cemetery, St Gregory's Churchyard, Burton Street Car Park, the playground, and various other areas at the Rec is ending at the end of March. This contract forms a significant part of the Parish stipend and our rules mean that we will invite tenders from companies to perform the services. We are keen for local companies to bid and an Invitation to Tender will be out very soon.

- **Traffic Calming** - a traffic calming group has been formed to see what can be done to make the streets of Marnhull safer for residents. The group is led by Jeremy Watson and I know there has already been some communications on this; please see the flyer in this month's magazine.

- **Heritage Group** - led by Stephen Boyce, the group has some great ideas to make more of the heritage in the village and I look forward to seeing the results!

I am particularly pleased with the formation of the Traffic and Heritage Groups in that these were initiatives set up and driven by residents without needing any extra 'push' from the Parish Council!

Finally, speaking of the Parish Council, we would love to see new councillors join the team. We have four vacancies to help run all the things that the Parish Council does. As you can see above, the breadth of the subjects we cover is substantial and any new councillors will have plenty of interesting things to do.

If you are interested, please contact either myself or Sally Upshall, the clerk at clerk@marnhullparishcouncil.gov.uk



Marnhull Neighbourhood Plan

Update for February 2026

Thank you for your incredible support on the Neighbourhood plan. Your encouragement and willingness to help has ensured our success in finishing the plan. With special appreciation for the team who's dedication and time have been invaluable. The challenges along the way, have been dealt with in a fair and impartial way. We've been working along side Dorset Council, who have been of great help.

After the plan passed the independent inspection we made changes, approved by the Parish Council, and sent the 'referendum version' of the Neighbourhood Plan to Dorset Council. Once approved by Dorset Council it will go to a referendum. Dorset Council are responsible for organising and administering the referendum.

The referendum is the final step where residents can vote on whether the Neighbourhood Plan should be legally adopted by Dorset Council. Residents who are registered to vote in local elections and live within the designated plan area are entitled to vote. The process includes options for in-person, postal and proxy voting, just like standard elections. All going well the referendum should take place mid March/April 2026. Make sure you are registered to vote!

The plan is brought into force if more than 50% of those who vote are in favour. There is no minimum turnout required for the vote to be valid.

If the majority of votes support the plan Dorset Council will formally adopt it within eight weeks. Thank you to those of you who have been supportive and have championed The Marnhull Neighbourhood Plan. We are nearly there!

Warm Regards

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

There is social housing being built in the village - to apply you need

be on the affordable housing register please see below contacts:

Website: dorsetcouncilhomechoice.org.uk

email: dorsetcouncilhomechoice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01305 221739

MARNHULL MESSENGER GRANTS

The Marnhull Messenger Steering Committee is delighted to announce that due to continued good management and careful stewardship of resources over the past decade, we have some accumulated funds which we would like to offer to village organisations and societies.

The grants will take the form of donations for specific projects, events or items of equipment which will benefit people in the village. Any Marnhull Organisation, Club or Society is invited to apply and will be expected to make a contribution to the same project.

Applications will close on February 28th 2026 and the successful grants will be announced by the end of March.

Your application should make a clear case for funding, the anticipated benefits, the amount requested and your organisation's contribution to the project.

Send your application to Fiona Nelson, Marnhull Messenger Administrator - email administrator@marnhullmessenger.org.uk. Tel - 01258 821036

Ian Gall - Chairman, Marnhull Messenger Steering Committee



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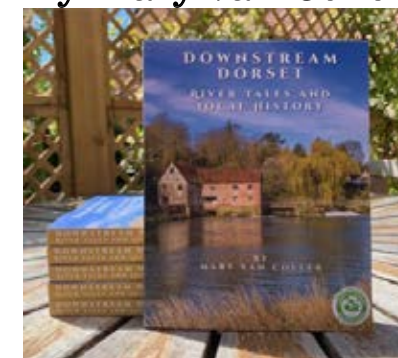
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Or Kate on 01258 863695 or 07725 245066
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*Sturminster Newton
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AGM

Wednesday 18th February
7.00pm in The Exchange
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behind the hymns we love to sing”

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ROYAL
BRITISH LEGION

Shock for the first entertainment of 2026 Elvis 56 had to cry off at the last moment but entertainments officer Tony Junge with his usual tenacity managed to find a replacement who received lots of encores at the end of the evening. He was considered a rousing success by the large turnout.

Tickets for the Beatles tribute night on Valentines Day are going quickly now so if you want to see them come and get your tickets from behind the bar or at the Spar or the Post Office.

The jumble sale on January 10th raised £300 most of which will go to Poppy Appeal as usual.

So thanks go to all who donated or helped on the day. The next one will be on April 11th so if you have any donations contact me on the number or email address below, I will collect if required.

The New Year's Eve celebration was a little down on numbers but was an enjoyable evening thanks in no small part to the SMAK Band who entertained us. Next New Year sees the return of the always popular Dale Fender Band

Lin's Bingo returns on the 2nd March after a well earned rest.

February Entertainment

Sat. 7th Feb – Stage One

Sat 14th Feb – Beatles Tribute (£12.50 or £15 on the door)

Sat 21st Feb – Deano

Sat. 28th Feb – Jack's Quiz

Mon. 2nd March – Lin's bingo 7pm

Sat. 2nd May – Buddy Holly Tribute

For Branch Business contact Jack Whitehead on 01258 820800

Or whiteheadjack51@gmail.com

Club business contact Tony Junge on 01258 820397

THE TECH WHISPERER COMES TO THE HUB

The Hub is pleased to welcome The Tech Whisperer, Richard. From Saturday 17th January Richard will be available every other Saturday to offer friendly, practical help with phones, laptops and everyday tech problems.

Drop in to the Hub for a 5-10 minute slot for advice or help with small issues such as changing settings or troubleshooting problems. If the issue can be resolved on the spot, the service is free of charge. If a problem needs more time, Richard will explain the options and discuss any charges in advance.

A great opportunity to get expert tech help in a relaxed, local setting. The February dates are Saturday 14th and the 28th and fortnightly thereafter.

THE STRANGE APOTHECARY WIN DREAM TEAM AWARD!

DORSET HOLISTIC WELLBEING BRAND THE STRANGE APOTHECARY WINS DREAM TEAM AWARD AT NATIONAL BUSINESS AWARDS



Marnhull, Dorset – Hannah Strange, founder of Dorset-based holistic wellbeing brand The Strange Apothecary, has been awarded the Dream Team Award at the Flamingo Business Awards, held on Thursday 27th November at Viva in Blackpool.

The Flamingo Business Awards, founded by Elizabeth McQuillan of Flamingo Business and Flamingo Car Finance, celebrate outstanding entrepreneurs and small businesses making a meaningful impact within their industries, communities, and client

base.

Following a rigorous judging process, The Strange Apothecary's entry was independently reviewed and shortlisted by a professional judging panel before being assessed by the Dream Team category sponsor, whose evaluation accounted for 80% of the final score. The remaining 20% was decided by public vote.

Speaking after the win, Hannah Strange said:

"Hearing our name announced as the overall winner was a complete shock. The Flamingo Business Awards are incredibly prestigious, and to be recognised nationally for the way we work together as a team is deeply meaningful. The Strange Apothecary truly is a dream team, we work in harmony, with shared values, and a genuine commitment to supporting our community."

Founded in 2019, The Strange Apothecary has grown into an award-winning holistic wellbeing brand offering plant-based remedies, nervous system support, and integrative wellbeing services. The business was born from Hannah's own lived experience of chronic health conditions and a breakdown in conventional healthcare, leading her to seek alternative, holistic solutions.

"What started as a personal healing journey became a mission to make holistic wellbeing more accessible, supportive, and human," Hannah added. "This award recognises not just the business, but the people behind it, and the care we pour into everything we do."

Elizabeth McQuillan, Founder of Flamingo Business and the Flamingo Business Awards, commented:

"My mission has always been to empower, celebrate, and elevate entrepreneurs and small enterprises. National awards are often designed for large corporations, yet the businesses making the biggest difference are often small, community-led, and values-driven. The Flamingo Business Awards exist to honour exactly that."

Over 1,000 business owners from across the UK were nominated or entered the awards across 12 categories, including AI Visionary, Health & Wellness Warrior, Coaching Connoisseur, Rising Star, and Entrepreneur of the Year.

For more information about the Flamingo Business Awards, visit flamingobusiness.co.uk

To learn more about Hannah Strange and The Strange Apothecary, visit strangeapothecary.co.uk

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STARS APPEAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE RAISES OVER £20,000!



The Stars Appeal's Christmas Raffle raised over £20,000 to support projects helping patients, their families and staff at Salisbury Hospital.

For winner Terry Smith, from Dinton, who scooped the top prize of £2,500, it was a brilliant start to the new year. He said: "I'm very overwhelmed and speechless. I'm very pleased to have won."

The Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity, aims to raise £2million each year to fund projects which offer direct, practical support to patients, their families, and the hospital's staff. The money raised in raffle ticket sales and donations will help to fund the charity's work across the hospital providing the latest diagnostic and treatment equipment, enhancements to buildings, and ongoing projects including free wi-fi, support for people with cancer, a dedicated play assistant and specialist therapy equipment for children, hospital chaplains, and emergency patient clothing.

Helena Sinclair, of the Stars Appeal, said: "A massive thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Raffle, and congratulations to our lucky winners. The amazing funds raised will help support projects across Salisbury Hospital, benefiting patients, their families, and the dedicated staff who care for them. We are also incredibly grateful to our prize sponsors Wilsons Solicitors and FJ Chalke for their continued support."

The £2,500 first prize was kindly sponsored by Wilsons Solicitors and the second prize of £500 was sponsored by FJ Chalke. A third prize of £250 was also up for grabs along with other cash prizes.

To find out more about the Stars Appeal visit www.starsappeal.org

MARNHULL GARDEN CLUB



In December our members joined together for a Christmas Social event. This was held in the Village Hall and included a glass of prosecco and canapes on arrival followed by a two course cooked dinner all provided by our Committee members. Special thanks must go to the Committee for all their hard work. We also had superb entertainment from 'Kind of Blue' followed by one of our local DJ's, 'Game of Tones', both of which provided opportunities for dancing. The event appears to have been thoroughly enjoyed by members, with good feedback being received, and hopefully provided something for everyone.

In January we had a talk from Arthur Cole who gave us a presentation entitled The Newt: Spanning 3 centuries. Arthur was very passionate about his subject and treated us all to a very interesting account of the history of the Newt in Somerset which started life as Hadsden House built in 1687. Arthur talked us through the various gardeners and designers who looked after the house and gardens until it eventually became The Newt in 2013. He also told us about the amazing array of things to look at and do at The Newt with hints of future new developments to come.

In February we will be holding our Annual General Meeting where we will receive reports from our Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer reflecting on the last year and approving financial reports. We will also be re-electing existing committee members as well as voting in any new committee members. We will also use this as an excuse to have a social event with members bringing along a plate of food for everyone to share.

The new membership year started in January. The Club offers excellent value for money at £20 for the year and members benefit from a varied programme of speakers, discounts at local garden centres, organised trips and the odd social event. If you simply want to come and see what we are all about you can come for the evening at a cost of £3.00 each. We are a large club with 130 members so if you are new to the Village and want to get to know people it's a good club to join. We aim to offer a warm welcome to new people so don't be shy and you really don't need any gardening knowledge or a large garden. There's something for everyone.

Three gardening tips for February

1. This is your last chance to prune hedges before they burst into life or birds start nesting. Cut off straggling shoots and reshape the hedges as they'll quickly regrow at this time of year.
2. Prune rose bushes now before they start leafing up. If you leave it too late, you'll be pruning out some of this year's new growth which will delay flowering as flowers are produced on new growth.
3. Add colour to pots. Pansies, polyanthus, cyclamen, snowdrops and narcissus are all good choices.

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Saturday 21st February

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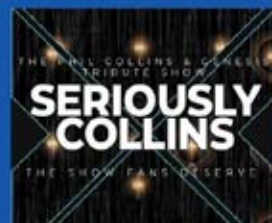
Saturday 7th March

THE DAY OF THE JACKAL • GANDHI
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THE BOUNTY • THE GENTLEMEN
WHAT A LOVELY WAR
SAY NEVER AGAIN
SOLDIER OF ORANGE
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THE GO-BETWEEN • THE SHOOTING PARTY

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EDWARD FOX
IN CONVERSATION WITH
RICHARD DIGBY DAY

March 13th 2026

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MARNHULL WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB STEPS UP FOR PROSTATE CANCER



On 29th December, Marnhull Walking Football Club took part in their very first charity tournament, raising funds for Prostate Cancer.

The event marked a significant milestone for the club, bringing together players from across the region for an afternoon of friendly yet competitive matches.

The MWFC team was placed in Group 1, playing against Yeovil, Portland B, Sherborne Outcasts, and Winchester Ladies.

Demonstrating excellent teamwork and determination, the club finished 3rd in their group, securing one win, one draw, and two losses.

Overall, Wimborne claimed the tournament title after a tense final against Dorchester, while Yeovil, from MWFC's group, progressed to the semi-finals.

Reflecting on the day, MWFC members described the experience as very positive. Everyone had the opportunity to get involved, and the club proved they could compete with teams from much larger communities. This achievement represents a step forward and has inspired the club to participate in future events.

Regular sessions for Marnhull Walking Football Club are held every Tuesday morning at 10:00 on the recreation ground. New members are always welcome—whether you are a seasoned player or simply curious about walking football. For more information or to join, please contact the club directly at marnhullwfc@outlook.com or phone 07495555175.

The club would like to extend heartfelt thanks to 'The Hub' for providing the team strip, and also to The Hub, Marnhull Entertains for their generous support towards the purchase of a defibrillator and the Marnhull Messenger for their support for our purchase of a storage box.

Marnhull Walking Football Club continues to grow, offering a welcoming environment for people of all backgrounds to enjoy fun, friendship, and fitness.

Marnhull Music Society - Music Plus

Neil Sissons

musician extraordinaire: organ piano wit song conductor raconteur

an evening of musical surprise

Marnhull Village Hall

Monday 16th February

6.45 for 7.15

Bring your own drink, glass and nibbles

Admission £5.00 pp incl. tea/coffee

Music Society members free

Tickets from the Marnhull shops

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Event in support of The Vale Pantry and Air Ambulance

MARNHULL BRITISH LEGION CLUB PRESENTS



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ST GREGORY'S CHURCH

ST. GREGORY'S CHURCH, MARNHULL

SERVICES AND EVENTS IN FEBRUARY Everyone is welcome!

Sunday 1st February - Candlemas

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)

10am Parish Communion

4pm Family Christingle Service

Weds 4th

10am - 12pm Coffee morning at Marnhull British Legion

11am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th - 2nd Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)

10am Parish Communion

Sunday 15th - Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)

10am Family All Age Worship

Weds 18th - Ash Wednesday (start of Lent)

11am Ash Wednesday Service- with imposition of ashes

Sunday 22nd Lent 1

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)

10am Parish Communion

Church is open daily: 9am - 4.30pm

CONTACT US

Rector Revd Gaenor Hockey

01258 821605 revdgaenor@proton.me

Licensed Lay Minister Judith Male

07852 780517 judith.stgregs@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer Miriam Gaston

01258 821573 miriamgaston7@gmail.com

Organist Gordon Amery

07817 379006 organ1234@btinternet.com

Singing Group Louise Cousins

lcousins.gmc@gmail.com

ONLINE

Parish: www.stgregorysmarnhull.org.uk

Facebook: 'stgregschurch' & 'musicatstgregs'

Diocese: www.salisbury.anglican.org

Remembering Barrie Jenks, Churchwarden of St Gregory's Church



It is with great sadness we announce the sudden and peaceful death on Wednesday 7th January

of Barrie Jenks our dear friend and Churchwarden for over 2 years.

His funeral will be announced in due course and we especially remember his widow Mary and their family at this sad time.



OUR LADY'S CHURCH

300 Years of the Catholic Mission to Marnhull

1725-2025

Bishop Nicholas Hudson was installed as Bishop of Plymouth on 29th November 2025. On Tuesday 9th December 2025 he visited Gillingham for the dedication of our new church. Below is an extract from his Christmas address. Bishop Nicholas Hudson said: "I am delighted that one of my first acts as the new Bishop of Plymouth is to celebrate a Mass for the Dedication of the new church of St Benedict and its altar in Gillingham, Dorset. This new church, along with developments in the parish of Tiverton, reflects our commitment to supporting growing Catholic communities and to serving local communities across the diocese. I am grateful to the Methodist community in Gillingham for their generous collaboration and support in this project."

The priest-in-charge of Marnhull and Gillingham, Father Cletus Ibeka, moved into his new home in September 2025. He shared his excitement about the project: "This new church represents not just a physical expansion, but a spiritual one as well. The growth is not only in our faith community, but in our commitment to serving the people of Gillingham." This timing coincides with the tercentenary of the parish's founding with the Marnhull Mission in 1725, marking a significant milestone in the local Catholic community's history.

The new church includes a highly unusual design feature: natural light will shine in the confessional. Very few confessionals have natural light, but the new confessional in St Benedict's has windows to provide natural light and ventilation, as well as sound proofing. The focus on light is central to the renovation project, with the new parish church taking advantage of natural light for a parish community which will seat up to 200 people.

The diocese is very grateful to the Methodist community for entrusting this historic building to its care. This project not only preserves an important local landmark but reimagines it for a new era of worship and service within the local community.

ST GREGORY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Year of Growth, Community and Celebration at St Gregory's School Marnhull



2025 proved to be a year of energy, reflection and achievement at St Gregory's Church of England School Marnhull, as pupils, staff and families worked together to continue to strengthen learning, wellbeing and community life.

January – March: A Positive Start to the Year

The year began with a strong sense of purpose as pupils returned refreshed after the Christmas break. Teaching and learning quickly settled into rhythm, supported by our enquiry curriculum and a continued emphasis on outdoor learning and Forest School activities. Our Year 6 children headed to London for an exciting trip to watch Matilda in the West End, and the whole school took part in an Ash Wednesday service at St Gregory's Church.

April – June: Learning, Creativity and Inspection

Spring brought a wealth of classroom activity, with pupils immersing themselves in different enquiries across science, history, literacy and mathematics. Music continued to be a particular strength, with opportunities for singing and performance helping children build confidence and creativity. The oldest children in school took part in their end of Key Stage 2 SATS tests with enthusiasm powered by SATS breakfasts each morning.

July – August: Celebrating Achievement

The summer term concluded with a series of celebrations, including Sports Day, class events and end-of-year activities. The school's House System encouraged teamwork, resilience and positive behaviour, with pupils earning points not only for sporting success but also for kindness and effort. Residential trips and sailing days were enjoyed by the children and staff. Families joined us for a whole school picnic lunch after a successful sports day and the children in Foxes put on a fabulous production of Noah.

September – October: Reading and a Confident Return

The new academic year began with energy and optimism, alongside a significant milestone for the school. Alongside this success, open mornings and afternoons welcomed prospective families, while pupils quickly settled back into routines and learning.

November – December: Inspection Success, Reflection and Festive Cheer

The final months of the year focused on enrichment and togetherness. In November 2025, St Gregory's was inspected under the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) framework. The inspection recognised the school's strong Christian vision and values,

highlighting how these underpin daily life, relationships and learning across the school community. As December approached, the school community came together for festive activities with the whole school watching the Pantomime in Yeovil, the younger children performed a Nativity and the whole school held a carol service in church. A big thank you to Tom at The Spar who kindly gifted a Santa hat for everyone at school.

Looking Ahead

Throughout 2025, St Gregory's School Marnhull continued to grow and flourish as a caring, inclusive village school where every child is known and valued. With strong partnerships between pupils, staff, families and the wider community, the school looks forward to 2026 with confidence and optimism.

ST GREGORY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL - OUTSTANDING SIAMS SUCCESS



St Gregory's CE Primary School Celebrates Outstanding SIAMS Success

St Gregory's Church of England Primary School in Marnhull is celebrating a highly successful Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), with inspectors praising the school's "clear and compelling vision" and its commitment to helping every child flourish.

The inspection, carried out on 27 November 2025, found that the school is living out its Christian foundation with strength, placing its vision—"Where learning has no limits through faith, hope and love"—at the heart of daily life. Inspectors highlighted how pupils, staff, and families use the image of a hot air balloon gliding over the Blackmore Vale to describe how the school helps children "rise high, even when things get tough."

Executive Headteacher Jill Farndale said the school was "delighted that the inspector recognised the extraordinary care, dedication, and ambition of our staff and pupils."

A Caring, Connected School Community

The report praised the school's nurturing culture, noting the strong relationships between staff, pupils, and the wider village community. From greeting each child by name at the school gate to the caring "Reception buddy" system, inspectors found that pupils are "known and cherished."

The partnership with St Gregory's Church was also described as a significant strength.

Collective worship—held both in school and in the parish church—offers pupils moments of "calm reflection," helping them develop spiritually and emotionally.

Vision-Led Learning and Personal Growth

Inspectors highlighted the school's thoughtful curriculum, designed to spark curiosity and encourage pupils to "aim high."

The Leadership responsibilities on offer for all pupils such as house captains and even guinea pig monitors, help pupils grow in confidence and responsibility

The school's emphasis on justice, fairness, and responsibility extends into the village, with pupils writing to older residents, supporting charity work, and contributing to the village show through their school garden.

A Vision Shared Across the Community

Executive Headteacher Jill Farndale, together with staff, governors, and the Pickwick Academy Trust, were commended for ensuring that the school's Christian vision shapes every decision.

Inspectors noted that staff feel "valued and supported," especially through recent challenges, thanks to strong pastoral care and robust wellbeing systems.

Looking Ahead

While the report identified two development points around strengthening pupils' understanding of spirituality and ensuring consistent recall in RE, inspectors emphasised that the school is already making strong progress in these areas.

A School "Where Learning Has No Limits" – Come and See for Yourself

Prospective families, are warmly invited to visit the school and see the caring environment, joyful learning, and strong values highlighted in the SIAMS report.

To arrange a visit or learn more, please visit: call 01258 820206. office@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk www.stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk

St Gregory's continues to demonstrate that small schools can deliver exceptional outcomes rooted in community, compassion, and high ambition. The SIAMS report celebrates a school where faith, hope, and love are not just words—but values that shape children's lives every day.



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

We're absolutely thrilled to welcome everyone back for the spring term of 2026! We hope you had a fantastic break and are all set for an exciting term ahead. Our amazing staff have been busy preparing engaging lessons and fun activities that will inspire the children and spark their love for learning.

On Tuesday 6th, 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.

EYFS Unit Preschool and Reception

It's been a busy start to the term for the Early Years children at St Mary's, who have returned to school full of enthusiasm and ready to learn. The children have been exploring London through a range of role play and small world activities linked to this topic.

During their play, the children took on the roles of bus drivers and passengers, carefully stopping at famous landmarks and chatting about what they might see along the way. To deepen their learning, they also built and created some of London's landmarks, using construction materials to bring their ideas to life.

As part of their learning about materials, the children have been naming different materials and are beginning to talk about their properties. As a challenge, they were asked to create a paper London Bridge to see whether paper could be strong enough to hold a toy London bus. They discovered that folding paper in different ways could create a surprisingly strong bridge. Some of our children are definitely engineers of the future!



St Mark's

The children have returned for the new term full of enthusiasm and excitement, settling back into school life with a positive attitude. In Science, we have begun learning about our bodies, naming different body parts and learning their functions. The children especially enjoyed the lesson where we brought it to life by creating their own bodies out of pasta. In Geography, we are learning about where we live and have been exploring the countries that make up the United Kingdom, along with their capital cities. It has been a joy to see how happy and eager to learn the children are as they have continued with their hard work this term.

We have also started our new art unit by working with clay, exploring how it can be manipulated using our hands and a variety of tools and objects.

St Francis'

We have had a fantastic start to the half term and the children have already been working hard across all areas of the curriculum. In Maths, we have continued our work on multiplication. The children have been developing their understanding of written methods, particularly for longer multiplication calculations, and are becoming more confident in applying these strategies.

In Literacy, we have started our new topic based on the book Escape from Pompeii by Christina Balit. The children have been exploring the text and focusing on diary entries and speech writing. They have enjoyed putting themselves in the shoes of characters from the story and thinking carefully about thoughts, feelings, and spoken language. Our class guided reading book for this half term is The Land of Roar by Jenny McLaughlin. The children are enjoying immersing themselves in this imaginative story and developing their comprehension and discussion skills.

We have begun our new Science topic, Animals-Including Humans. So far, we have been learning about the human body, identifying different bones and understanding the important jobs they do to help us move and protect vital organs.

In History, we have started our topic on Invaders and Settlers. The children have been learning what invading and settling mean, and we have begun exploring Roman soldiers and how the Romans built and expanded the Roman Empire.

In PE, we have started two exciting new units: Hockey and Bootcamp. These sessions are helping the children develop teamwork, fitness, and coordination while staying active and having fun.

St Alban's

The term has certainly started off as a busy one, in St Alban's Class, with the children very quick to immerse themselves in their new topics. In History, they have begun exploring the fascinating history of medicine, learning how different illnesses and medical developments have shaped the world we live in today. In Science, the children have been investigating electrical components, experimenting with circuits to light bulbs, sound buzzers, and set motors in motion.

We have also made an energetic start to the year in our PE lessons, kicking off with hockey and fitness sessions that have encouraged teamwork, coordination, and perseverance. Alongside this, the children have been using their creative skills to explore, plan, and make models using recycled materials, producing some imaginative and thoughtful designs.

Our new class book, Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll, has already captured the children's interest and sparked some engaging discussions. It has been a fantastic start to the term, and we are very much looking forward to the learning and discoveries ahead.





The countdown to this year's Marnhull Village Show has begun! The Show will take place on Saturday 11th July in the Village Hall and Recreation Ground and now's the perfect time to start thinking about what you're going to grow, make, bake or take in time for the Show.

The full Show Schedule will be available at the beginning of May, but we hope that many of you will already be planting your seeds, taking photos of the wonderful sunrises or using the winter months to enjoy your favourite handicraft. If you're making sloe gin, chutneys, pickles, jams and marmalades, this year you'll be able to enter up to two different varieties, so do make sure you don't eat or drink them all before July!

The Posties' Pick was a great success at last year's Show. Our local posties enjoyed seeing all the wonderful front gardens and choosing their favourite, so we're doing it all again this year. It's a class that you don't even need to enter, just make sure that your garden is looking its best in the run up to the Show. The photo is of last year's beautiful winner, Rose Cottage in Sackmore Lane.

The Crown at Marnhull, which kindly sponsors the Show, will be awarding The Crown Tankard for the Best Marnhull Allotment. Again there's no need to enter – all the allotments in Sodom Lane will have the chance to win.

We're also excited to introduce some new classes including The Best Sporty Scarecrow (The Flowerpot Men have sadly retired), the best flowering houseplant and an arrangement of five different vegetables. There's even a class for those of you who like to make kimchi!

There'll be lots more information available in the run up to the Show, so do look out for that. You can follow us on Facebook 'Marnhull Village Show' for updates and tips and you have any question, please email us: marnhullvillageshow@gmail.com

MARNHULL HARITAGE INITIATIVE

Over the last few months our growing team have been pursuing various elements of our first topic, Marnhull's connection with Thomas Hardy:

- A Hardy Trail – we've drafted an illustrated leaflet highlighting Marnhull's links with Hardy's Tess of the d'Urbervilles. We are working with a local designer on its production.

- Research at the newly catalogued Hardy archive at Dorset History Centre has revealed interesting new material relating to 'Marlott', which we have shared with the Thomas Hardy Society.

- A fuller account of the background to Tess and 'Marlott' is in draft. We intend to make this available online and in hard copy.

- We have agreement to maintain and improve the Hardy Way where it passes through the parish to improve the experience for both residents and visitors.

- We have agreed with Monty at the Crown an updated and renewed interpretation panel in the Crown car park. We are also working to expand the library of Hardy-related books at the Crown, notably in the Hardy Room.

- We are working with St Gregory's church to support an information point in the church.

- We are developing plans for a celebration of Hardy in Marnhull in 2028, the centenary of the author's death, and are keen to involve Marnhull's schools.

- We have begun a fundraising programme to support this work and other heritage projects.

If you would like to know more about the group and its work or have suggestions for other aspects of Marnhull's heritage – natural, built or cultural – that you'd like us to look into, please get in touch: stehenboyce@me.com or 07753 402685

January 2026

MARNHULL MUSIC SOCIETY

Save the date!

On Monday 16th February the Music Society is hosting an evening which will be of interest to folk of every musical persuasion. Neil Sissons, pianist, singer, composer, conductor and raconteur, will entertain his audience with personal reminiscences from a long musical career accompanied by his choice of music.

Held in the Village Hall, the evening begins at 7.15pm and entry is £5. Tickets are available from the usual outlets or from John Dowsett 821534 or 07825 057543 or of course you can pay on the door.

We envisage a relaxed ambience so bring your own wine or beer and nibbles. Tea and coffee will be included in the ticket price.

MARNHULL COMMUNITY CAFE

Please pop in to the Marnhull Community Café - we are a friendly team and there's always plenty of good conversation, homemade cakes, and coffee on tap!

We were asked by the Blackmore Vale Partnership to start the café after lockdown, to encourage people to come together, meet old friends, and make new ones. A problem shared is a problem halved, as they say - chatting, laughing, and sharing experiences can help:

- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Lift mood
- Help people feel more positive and supported

For many, the café provides something to look forward to, which is important for coping with life's ups and downs.

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MARNHULL ENTERTAINS

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presents



Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy (Olivia Colman) and Theo (Benedict Cumberbatch): successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids.

But beneath the façade of their supposed ideal life, a storm is brewing – as Theo's career nosedives while Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites. THE ROSES is a reimagining of the 1989 classic film The War of the Roses, based on the novel by Warren Adler.

Marnhull Village Hall

24 February

at 7.30pm

Doors open 7.00pm

Tickets: £5.00

Available from:

Robin Hill Stores: 01258 820959

or Marnhull Stores: 01258 820116

MARNHULL PLAYERS PANTO

With only 5 rehearsals left until our first performance, everything is coming together nicely even if the nerves are starting to kick in. There isn't long to go but still time to get your tickets before they sell out.

I hope your ready to join in with the singing, the its behind you and of course the oh yes you can / can't and don't forget to Boo the sea witch and cheer on Sandy and Rocco as they battle their way to being together.

We can't wait to perform and we hope to see you there.

Here are the dates and details of when A Mermaids Tale will be at Marnhull Village Hall: -

Friday 30th January at 7pm

Saturday 31st January at 2pm and 7pm

Sunday 1st February at 2pm

Tickets will be available in Marnhull Spar and Robin Hills stores from 1st December.

If you 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. Then let us know in the next month or to so we can make sure your in the list so we don't miss you out and we can fit you into the script before we go too far.

Contact Emma at marnhullplayers@gmail.com

The Committee and Cast

The Marnhull Players Proudly Present

A Mermaid's Tail

MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL, DT10 1PP

FRIDAY
30TH
JANUARY
7PM

SATURDAY
31ST
JANUARY
2PM AND 7PM

SUNDAY
1ST
FEBRUARY
2PM

TICKETS ON SALE FROM 29TH NOV 2025
AT ROBIN HILL STORES & SPAR

ADULTS - £7
CHILD (UNDER 16) - £5

MARNHULL ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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An evening of fabulous live entertainment



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An amazing tribute to the

THE BEATLES

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY
Doors open 7.00pm - Show starts 8.30pm

Tickets £12.50 in advance or £15.00 on the night

tickets are available from the Royal British Legion Club, the Post Office and the Spar Shop in Marnhull

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NEWS FROM TRADING STANDARDS

The value of Trading Standards

Trading Standards’ work helps every one of us. By enforcing nearly 300 laws they keep shopping fair, products safe, and businesses honest.

Recent research from the Chartered Institute of Trading Standards highlights the valuable return on investment that Trading Standards deliver. For every £1 spent on Trading Standards, £11 is saved. That’s because problems are prevented before they happen. Trading Standards stop £6.5 billion in losses from goods sold with short measures and help prevent livestock diseases that could cost over £10 billion per outbreak. By ensuring products and food are safe they save the NHS thousands, estimated at around £55,000 for every injury avoided.

Their work preventing dangerous imports brings £35 in savings for every £1 spent. They also give businesses over 22,000 hours of advice each year, helping them grow and thrive. Trading Standards fight scams and doorstep crime, preventing £442 million in losses annually, and tackle fraud worth over £12 billion. These efforts protect our wallets and keep confidence in UK markets strong.

Imagine life without Trading Standards. Every shopper could lose £1,000 a year on unsafe or poor-quality goods. The economy could suffer losses of £12 billion, 20,000 jobs could vanish, and £2.53 billion in public revenue would disappear due to illegal trading. Unsafe electrical goods could cause house fires costing £21,000 each, and unchecked underage sales of alcohol, knives, and vapes would put young people at risk. Even simple things like short measures of goods could cost every person over £100 a year.

As an intelligence led Service, Dorset Council Trading Standards needs your help to protect others, to support businesses, and strengthen our economy. If you buy something that isn’t right, agree to work that doesn’t live up to expectations, or maybe you’re affected by scams, then report it at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer or phone the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133. Trusted advice will be given to help sort out the problem and all information provided will be sent to Dorset Council Trading Standards.

SPITZ & CO

Artsreach & Marnhull Entertains presents

The Spy Who Loved me Tender

By Spitz & Co

Marnhull Village Hall

Friday 13th February @ 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm)

“An hour of non-stop hilarity” Exeunt Magazine

The inimitable Spitz & Co (creators of Glorilla, Gloriator and Les Gloriables) are back with a brand-new, action-packed comedy filled with songs, sequins and drama galore! Fresh from winning ‘Best Elvis Tribute Act’ (aged 55+) Southwest Region 2025, Elvis impersonator Ian Pollock is dreaming bigger and bolder than ever. His new mission? To write and star in a genre-busting, hip-shaking, action-packed blockbuster James Bond musical... with James Bond played by Elvis!

Aided by his ever-loyal tour manager Josephine, and with a little audience back-up, Ian takes us on a globe-trotting escapade full of diabolical villains, Bond girls, car chases, iconic songs, and plenty of bling! Are you ready to be shaken, stirred, and left in stitches? Because nobody does it better...

Touring Dorset as part of the programme by Artsreach, Dorset’s rural arts charity.

www.artsreach.co.uk

Tickets are £12.50 available from:

- Pat Budden (01258 820458)
- Spar Marnhull (01258 820116)
- Robin Hill Stores (01258 820959)
- or on-line (<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/artsreach/t-ejajldx>)

!! BARN DANCE !!

Saturday 28th February 2026
7.00 for 7.30

Marnhull Village Hall

TEASING THE CAT

Folk band plus caller

Bring own drink and nibbles

Tea/coffee on sale

Tickets £10.00 per person

Advance purchase advised

from Marnhull shops

& John Dowsett 01258 821534 07825 057543

Net proceeds to Vale Pantry & Air Ambulance

BARN DANCE SATURDAY
28TH FEBRUARY

Marnhull Village Hall will soon be resounding again to the strains of a live folk dance band (Teasing the Cat for the third time), the cries of a professional caller, and whoops and yells from those stripping the willow.. Last time the dance floor was crammed from beginning to end with no time lost persuading people off their feet. Since then requests for another have been many and so here we are!

This time the programme is slightly different. Please eat before and bring your own drink, glass and nibbles; teas and coffees available. Tickets on sale at £10.00 from the Village shops and from JD - don't delay - they went very fast last time and a few less this time for more dancing space! Net proceeds to The Vale Pantry and Air Ambulance.

See you there.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact John Dowsett

01258 821534 and 07825 057543.

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ACROSS 1. Fiscal 4. Boche 6. Ore 7. Tricorne 8. Okra
11. Henny 13. Army 15. Topmast 16. Scallop 17. Fawn
19. Kneel 21. Shia 24. Hornpipe 25. Goy 26. Heron
27. Scythe
Down 1. Femur 2. Carthusian 3. Lucan 4. Barmy 5. Caesar
6. Ohio 9. Kroma 10. Amman 12. Narcoplepsy 13. Atlas 14. Maori
18. Wether 19. Koran 20. Expos 22. Henge 23. Ahoy

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

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

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TECHNEWS



YOUR MONTHLY TECH UPDATE

CHRIS RYU
Dorset Tech

Welcome back to my quick tech update.

Dell Brings Back The XPS

Dell has announced that they've realised that people don't care about having AI built into their hardware and has shifted focus back to making great reliable laptops. They also admitted they were wrong to bin the XPS name and it's making a return this month.

The new Dell XPS 14 & 16 are Dell's thinnest laptops to date at just 14.6mm. They've gone all in with energy efficiency, so no discrete graphics cards this year. They are able to drop their monitors down to just 1Hz frequency enabling battery life of a staggering 26 hours!

Wifi 8 is here

Most of us haven't even switched to Wifi 7 yet and I'd predict that most the village is still on Wifi 5! Of course this will bring range and speed improvements, but Wifi 8 is focused on reliability in difficult situations. Even in highly populated areas, with thick walls and radio interference you'll get low latency, near loss-less connectivity.

Old Tech Resurgency

You would have needed to be living under a rock to have missed all the AI hype this last year. Major companies are all fighting to include some kind of AI in their products. This is causing a huge shortage in chips, including those used in computer "Ram" memory. So much so that one of the biggest manufacturers has announced an exit from consumer grade memory to focus exclusively on their AI memory products. Other manufacturers have announced that they're sold out until 2027 and Samsung have doubled their memory prices.

This huge shortage has led to the older "DDR4" memory growing in popularity. The ram is not backwards compatible, so this has in turn boosted the value of older motherboards and processors. I'm personally having a rummage through my old parts and previously low value parts are in some cases fetching more than brand new ones.

Samsung Z Tri-Fold

Samsung's new phone looks more like a tech showcase than a finished model but it is available to buy in some countries already. The Z Tri-Fold has a normal smartphone sized display when closed. The user can then unfold it to make a huge 10" Tablet! It really is a 2 in 1 device.

Other manufacturers have tried this, but Samsung is the first to make it appear viable in my opinion. They've almost entirely eliminated the crease that you typically get with these folding phones. Their hinge systems do a great job at stopping dust from getting in there and the design protects the screens when it's folded - something that some other manufacturers failed to consider.

It's looking like it'll retail for around £2,000 so it's not cheap! However, they are factoring in some risk mitigation for the buyer which is welcome. Each Trifold buyer gets 1 free screen replacements should the worst happen. They get a dedicated support number, priority service, free screen protectors, unlimited pickup & repair sessions and 50% discount on out of warranty repairs.

Stair Climbing Robot Vacuum

Robot Vacuums are growing in popularity every year. Many even have built in mops now and can detect whether they're on carpet, vinyl, wood, etc and change whether they mop, polish, or Hoover automatically.

Stairs have always been an issue for them. Some manufacturers have tried tackling them with climbing cradles, but that has issues of its own.

Enter the Roborock Saros Rover! This cute little cleaner can climb stairs with the aid of legs that fold down. It has remarkable balance, surviving various kicks and pokes. Each leg operates independantly so it can also clean the stairs on it's way up. What a time to be alive!

FOR WEBSITE AND APP DEVELOPMENT CONTACT CHRIS
Dorset Tech

www.dorset.tech

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

MARNHULL ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
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An evening of amazing live entertainment

featuring **MARC ROBINSON**
A charismatic tribute to
Rock 'n' Roll legend Buddy Holly

SATURDAY 2ND MAY
Doors open 7.00pm - Show starts 8.30pm

Tickets £10.00 in advance or £12.50 on the night
tickets are available from the Royal British Legion Club, the Post Office and the Spar Shop in Marnhull

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION MARNHULL BRANCH AND CLUB
LEGION HALL, SODOM LANE, MARNHULL
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UNITY MARTIAL ARTS

The club continues to grow, so a huge thank you for your support. We gained 4 new students in December and a whopping 24 in the first 2 weeks of January!

We've begun our partnership with the prestigious Sandroyd School, teaching 3 lessons a week.

We have 3 venues:

Sturfit (Sturminster Newton) on Mondays

Stour Row Village Hall (Shaftesbury)

East Stour Village Hall (Gillingham) on Wednesdays

All our venues have a Junior class (7-12) and a Family Class (10-65). We're about to add a "Dragons" class (3-6) and Chris is training to add an over 55s class using a style of Taekwon-Do that was especially designed for mobility as we age.

Our students are preparing for their next grading in February and our trip to compete in the South East Opens in March.

We were very excited to launch our new mobile apps (IOS and Android) in December. There's far too many features to list, but my personal favourites are:

- Duolingo Style Theory Practice Tool
- Progress Tracker showing what each student still has to learn before grading
- Leaderboards: Our students can compete in various challenges
- Knowledge Base: We have videos of all our syllabus

We also invested in some new equipment. My favourite are Taekwon-Do paddles that measure our power and reaction time.

If you'd like to try something new, check out unityma.co.uk and register for a free trial.

SERO*

Invites you to an afternoon with

Timothy Medhurst

renowned antiques expert and TV personality, who will be sharing his journey, passions and views on antiques

Wednesday 11th March

2.30 pm (doors open at 2 pm)

The Tithe Barn, Hinton St Mary Estate,

Sturminster Newton DT10 1NA

Tickets £17.50

to include full afternoon tea

Raffle

To purchase tickets email: serocharity@gmail.com

Or ring Julie on 01258 861218 or 07749 486733

Or Kate on 01258 863695 or 07725 245066

(* SERO – raising funds for local causes and Julia's House Children's Hospice.)




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**MARNHULL
LUNCH CLUB**

**LUNCH
WITH FRIENDS**

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**FOOD
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MARNHULL TENNIS CLUB



How do you fancy a cruise for your next holiday? When Dorothy Webb was seventy that's just what she wanted. But the ship she chose wasn't a luxury liner with stabilisers and comfortable cabins and luxurious staterooms. Oh no. Her ship was a restored tall ship with several masts, cannons, a forest of rigging and huge sails.

Dorothy was assigned to a watch of about a dozen people of all ages, nationalities and levels of expertise. When the voyage involved sailing continuously for the 24 hours her watch was roused at 4am, stayed on duty until breakfast then worked from 4pm to 8 pm.

The watch members were responsible for raising and lowering sails, which involved a lot of heavy hauling on ropes, and furling topsails which meant having to climb 40-foot masts and balance on ropes below the yardarm. And all this was done as the ship was rolling through often heavy seas.

When not on watch the sailors swabbed the decks, helped prepare the meals and grabbed a bit of sleep. Accommodation was either a coffin-sized bunk with about a couple of feet of headroom or a hammock slung alongside a dozen others. There was one loo for about thirty people and that was quite a scramble away up and down ladders. Dorothy's only complaint was that with so little personal space there was nowhere to put her false teeth at night.

Dorothy is an astonishingly vital and enthusiastic lady with a real lust for life. She obviously loved every perilous, exhausting, comfortless, rigorous moment of her four tall ship adventures.

I salute her but I won't be joining her.

TASTY WINTER RECIPE - BAKED CHICKEN WITH CIDER AND BACON



Serves 4

A simple, comforting dish that's full of flavour and perfect for a relaxed family meal.

You'll need:

Olive oil, 4 chicken pieces (skin on), 4 rashers smoky bacon (chopped), 1 onion (sliced), 1 clove garlic (chopped), a few sprigs of thyme (still growing in the garden), 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard, 450ml dry cider (though you can use chicken stock), salt and pepper.

How to make it:

Heat the oven to 180°C fan. Brown the chicken in a little olive oil until golden, then set aside. In the same pan, gently cook the onion, garlic, bacon and thyme until softened. Pour in the cider, let it bubble for a couple of minutes, then stir in the mustard.

Tip the sauce into a casserole dish, add the chicken, season well, add 2 teaspoons of flour to thicken, cover with foil and bake for 35-40 minutes. Remove the foil, spoon over a little sauce and return to the oven for another 10 minutes.

Scatter with fresh thyme and season again if needed. Works well with mash and greens.



MARNHULL CRAFT CLUB



As its charity project for 2026, Marnhull Craft Club has accepted a challenge from the Marnhull branch of the Royal British Legion to complete a Poppy Cascade for the War Memorial outside St. Gregory's church in time for it to be displayed in time for Remembrance Day.

The Club is really looking forward to the challenge and made a good start at its first meeting of the year. However we are going to need a LOT of poppies and we hope that people across the village will get involved over the next few months and help us meet the challenge.

You don't have to be a member of the Craft Club to join in and all kinds of poppies are welcome – e.g. knitted, crocheted or felt – they just need to be of a material which will withstand the weather.

There are lots of poppy patterns online but if you'd like us to send you some or want more information, please email us: marnhullcraftclub@gmail.com.

We've also set up a Facebook Group 'Marnhull Craft Club - Poppy Cascade Charity Challenge 2026' where we'll be tracking our progress and sharing patterns, ideas and tips.

We really hope that you'll be able to support us and ensure that we can make the Cascade an impressive and fitting tribute. Look out for information about the drop off points for your poppies on the FB Group and in the Messenger.

Alongside the charity project, we will also be continuing our crafting at our monthly meetings. In February we will be making small gift and trinket boxes from used Christmas cards and sturdy wrapping paper or you can bring along your own project to work on or just join us for a cup of tea and a chat.

Our meeting is on Thursday 5th February at 10am in the Methodist Hall on Burton Street.



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Atul Odedra - Post Office Owner:

"When people can shop local, they don't go to other places further afield. At the moment, we don't have access for wheelchairs or push chairs. Space is the biggest problem"

David Rose - Pharmacy Owner:

"Paul consulted on what we needed, and it has served us well. Tess Square is going to be a fantastic facility"

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Juniors	£3.00

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Loads of fun for children and families

Badminton Club Night Tuesday club night: 7.00–10.00pm

First night free to new members

All Cocahing 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 COMMUNITY CHOIR

A non audition group that meets on a Wednesday evening from 7pm–9pm in Marnhull Village Hall. We follow school term dates with a 10-week term. Membership is open to men and women over the age of 18. Our music genre is broad and includes musical theatre, light classics and seasonal favourites with the emphasis being on fun and enjoying singing together.

Contact Chris Drake 01258 820645
or email chris@christine-drake.com

www.marnhullcommunitychoir.com

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

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 £12.00

For more information please call

Liz 01258 821378 or Dawn 01258 820642

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 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

A friendly group who enjoy learning about all crafts and sharing our knowledge and enthusiasm. Learn a new skill from our demonstrations & workshops or you can just bring whatever you're working on & join us for a cup of tea & a chat.

More information email - marnhullcraftclub@gmail.com

MARNHULL BRIDGE CLUB

Meets in the Methodist Hall, every Tuesday to play Chicago

New players always welcome

Call 07785 791622 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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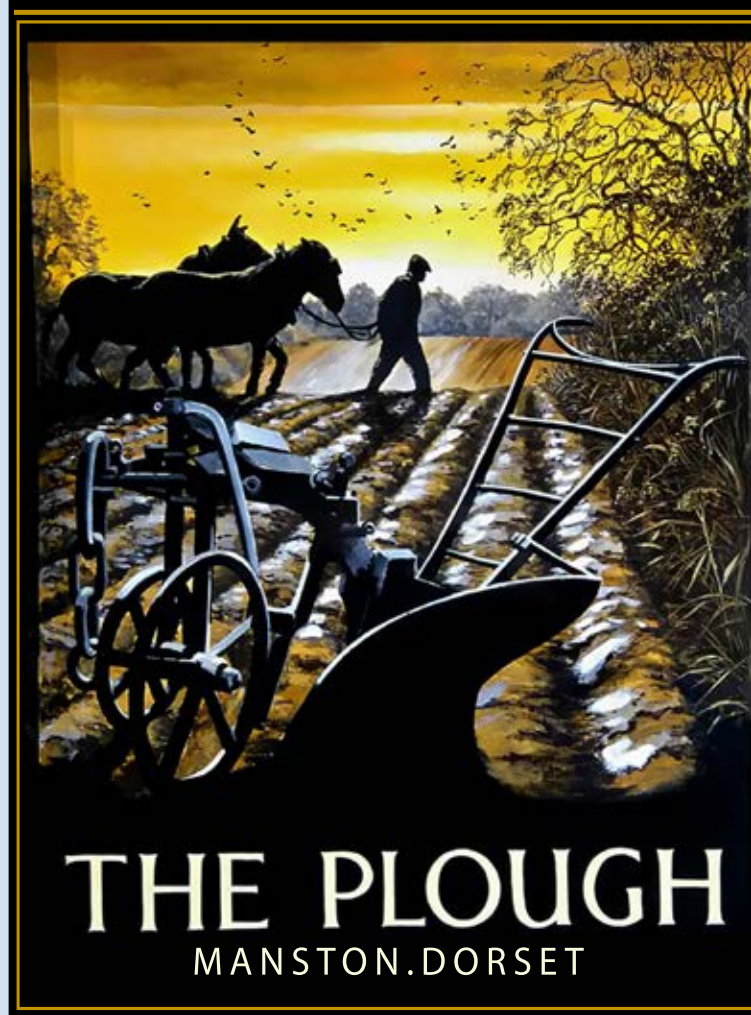
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Great traditional pub grub & specials menu.

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Large Garden.

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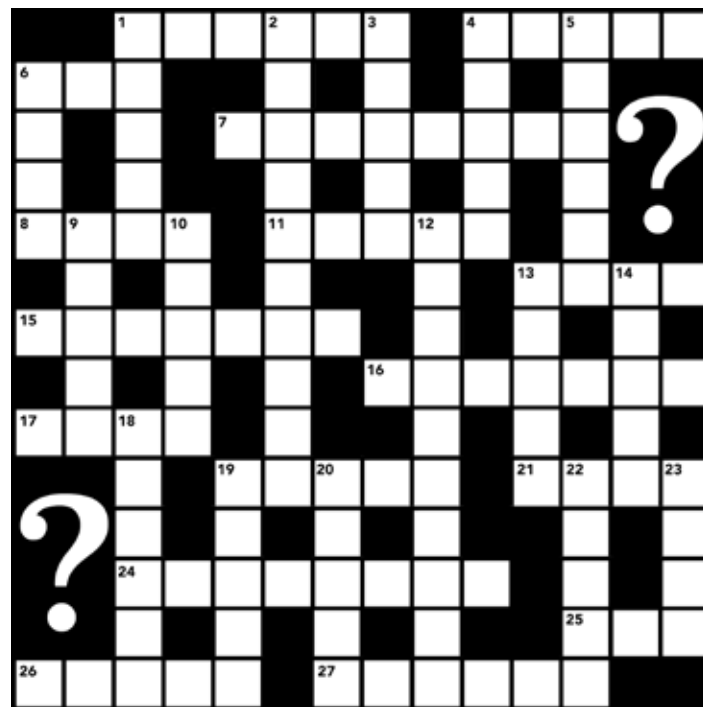
Website: ploughmanston.com

ACROSS

- 1) Relating to Government revenue especially regarding taxes. (6)
 4) Term for German soldiers in WW1. (5)
 6) Naturally occurring solid material from which valuable mineral can be obtained. (3)
 7) A hat having a brim turned up on three sides. (8)
 8) A plant of the mallow family that is eaten as a vegetable. (4)
 11) The offspring of a female donkey and a male horse. (5)
 13) See 4D.
 15) The second section of a square rigged of a square rigged sailing ship's mast. (7)
 16) Edible bivalve mollusc with a ribbed fan shaped shell. (7)
 17) A young deer in it's first year. (4)
 19) The sound of a bell rung solemnly. (5)
 21) One of the two main branches of Islam. (4)
 24) A one person dance associated with sailors. (8)
 25) A Jewish name for a non-Jew. (3)
 26) A large fish eating wading bird with long legs. (5)
 27) A tool used for cutting crops with a long curved blade. (6)

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DOWN

- 1) The longest bone in the human body. (5)
 2) Member of an austere contemplative order founded by St. Bruno in 1084. (10)
 3) Lord who disappeared in 1974 suspected of murder. (5)
 4) and 12A) Nickname of travelling England cricket supporters (5-4)
 5) Title of Roman Emperors. (6)
 6) US state with the nickname the Buckeye state. (4)
 9) Basic monetary unit of Sweden. (5)
 10) The capital of Jordan. (5)
 12) Condition characterised by a tendency to fall asleep. (10)
 13) A book of maps or charts. (5)
 14) A member of the aboriginal people of New Zealand. (5)
 18) A castrated lamb. (6)
 19) The Islamic sacred book. (5)
 20) Large international exhibitions. (5)
 22) Prehistoric monument consisting of circles of stone or wooden uprights. (5)
 23) Nautical call to attract attention. (4)

ALL PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 24

New Messenger Deadline:
Mid-Day 14th February

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



THE CROWN

MARNHULL



A Traditional Rural Village Coaching Inn

We serve a wide range of traditional local ales & beers, delicious wines & classy cocktails.

Our menus focus on classic pub grub & tasty specials which change with the seasons. Our produce is sourced from local farmers, fishers, foragers & artisan producers.

Think comforting Sunday lunches, small plates in our walled garden, handmade award-winning pies, indulgent desserts & succulent West Country steaks.

The Crown Inn is the perfect country escape for family get-togethers, meetings, wakes, celebrations & buffets. We work closely with you to create menus that suit your occasion. We cater for sumptuous hot & cold buffets, family style dining or classic plated options.

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