



THE MARNHULL MESSENGER



Original illustration by George Cox



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WELCOME TO YOUR MARNHULL MESSENGER

CHRIS RYU
Messenger Editor

WELCOME BACK MARNHULL!

A frustrating chain of events resulted in a lot of you not receiving the last issue (full details below). With various issues making courier delivery difficult, we've changed to a local printing company "The Print Agency", so thanks to Sarah there for being so helpful with the transition on short notice.

NEW PAPER AGAIN!

Due to the change in printer for this issue, we've had to swap paper stock again. This silk paper is coated, but is fully recyclable like before. When you're done, just put it in the kerbside box like normal.

NEW EDITOR STILL REQUIRED

A new Editor is still being looked for, but for the time-being I'm delighted to continue... just with the help of some of my lovely team at Dorset Tech.

Stay safe Marnhull - looking forward to seeing you all soon

FEBRUARY'S MARNHULL MESSENGER

At the time of going to print, many of you will not have received a copy of the February Edition. Although it is online, it's not the same as having the physical copy to refer to.

The Messenger was printed and dispatched and one box was delivered on time, however the other eight boxes were not. Despite many calls to the courier, and several promises that the balance of the order would be delivered, at this moment they have not. Various excuses have been offered by the courier, shortage of staff due to Covid, the Brexit effect meaning that their warehouse is overflowing and so on. So, our sincere apologies to you for the lack of a magazine and to the delivery team who have been on standby to spring into action, should the Messengers appear.

We have taken steps to ensure that this does not happen again, the proof of which is that you are reading this!

Ian Gall - Chairman, The Marnhull Messenger Steering Group

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS INTO A LIVE CALENDAR

On the messenger website and they'll be added to the printed one when it returns in the near future

www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk

Disclaimer

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

MID-DAY 14th March

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

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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.

STURMINSTER NEWTON MEDICAL CENTRE



Covid 19 Vaccine

At the time of going to press, the vast majority of people over the age of 70 and those who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, have been offered the vaccine and the uptake has been incredible. The Practice is now working through the list of patients between 50 and 70, to offer them vaccinations.

If by any chance you are one of the very few people over 70, or clinically extremely vulnerable who hasn't been offered an appointment for the vaccine, the easiest way to arrange one is through the national booking service which can be accessed at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination. Here you can choose a time slot and location that suits you. If you would prefer to telephone, then call 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm seven days a week.

If you are in the 50-70 group, please don't contact the Practice, they will be in touch with you in the next few weeks when the vaccine is available for you.

Vaccination sessions began in the Medical Centre in Sturminster Newton and then moved next door into the Exchange, where there is so much more space to keep everyone socially distanced. It also means the Medical Centre can be used to see and treat patients for non Covid related care.

A team of clinicians, admin staff and volunteers are ensuring that the process is as smooth as possible and there have been dozens of compliments about how well the clinics are run and how safe and at ease patients feel.

Shortly, the process will begin again as people are invited back for their second dose of the Covid 19 vaccine.

After the vaccine

Whilst the vaccine is wonderful news and a route for all of us out of this pandemic, Government scientists have raised concerns about the dangers of people ignoring social distancing measures after they have been vaccinated, warning it could "undermine" the vaccine programme.

Evidence contained in a report by the Sage advisory group suggests people may let down their guard after they have received the jab and be less likely to follow government guidance on the Covid-19 restrictions, as they believe they are no longer at risk of infection.

Prof Susan Michie, Director of the UCL's Centre for Behaviour Change and who sits on the Science Pandemic Influenza on Behaviour (SPI-B) group part of Sage, said "I really fear this may be a problem that people think 'Well, I've been a bit protected so therefore I can be a bit more lax.'

This is going to undermine the benefits of vaccination. I think it's worth informing people when they have the jab that they will not be completely protected, even after you have two jabs, as no vaccine is 100 per cent effective."

Access to the Surgery

The Blackmore Vale Partnership encourages patients to contact them if they have any clinical needs. It's really important that if you are worried about any symptoms or health conditions that you get in touch, ideally by the online system - eConsult, for non urgent issues, through the Practice website. <https://www.blackmorevalesurgery.co.uk/>

It's very easy to use and you will get a response within 24 hours - often much quicker than that. Or, if urgent, then telephone in the usual way. You will then be advised by telephone and if necessary, an appointment will be made for face to face consultation. It's not possible to book an online appointment on the website at the moment, due to the current situation and please don't just turn up at the surgery without an appointment.

The message is, the Practice is very much open for business, albeit working in a different way.

Friendship Groups

The Practice currently has 4 Telephone Friendship Groups running - 1 specific to Fibro/Chronic Pain/Chronic Fatigue and 3 more general ones, to help with isolation and loneliness.

If there are enough volunteers to help run them, then more can be set up. Facilitators need to have PC or Laptop access but participants just need a standard telephone.

If you would like to be part of these, or would like to volunteer to help, please get in touch with Jen Churchill, Social Prescriber, jennifer.churcher@dorsetgp.nhs.uk Tel: 07960 043766



Are you a person struggling either practically or emotionally with everyday life? Do you know someone who is vulnerable and in need of some assistance with shopping, getting to hospital, Dentist or Doctor?

If the answer is yes to any of the above then we need you to tell us as follows:

Transport Ann Davis- Penson 07434-638485 or 01258 820456

General help: Hilary Parker 01258 821667.

Trevor Vaughan 01258 821636

Trevor Vaughan

Chairman

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VILLAGE HALL SUPPORTERS CLUB

The next draw for the Club will take place at the Garden Club in March - in view of Covid, once again outside Robin Hill Stores, where I accost passers-by to pick a number.

For those of you who do not know of the VHSC, it is run to raise money for the Village Hall. Tickets are £6 per year (as many as you like), and half of the income is for the Hall and half goes back to you in the form of a prize draw every quarter. Most years the Hall benefits by £11 - £1200, and so do the subscribers.

Ticket Application Forms will be available in the Messenger and in the two following editions. The Club year starts on 1st March.

Please help support the Village Hall - and you might win in the draw as well.

2020 - 409 tickets sold The Year of Covid - ticket sales sadly down by over 50

10 th March 2020 Draw held at Garden Club meeting		
Prize	Ticket No	Winner
£60	41	John Pett
£50	301	Peter & Lynne Wood
£30	97	Belinda Wentworth
£30	72	Marnhull Music Club
£20	287	Trevor Vaughan
£20	126	Merle Evans
£15	226	Judy McTaggart
£15	73	Marnhull Music Club
£10	30	Nick Lalor
£10	243	Jean Lewis

8 th June 2020 Held outside Robin Hill Stores		
Prize	Ticket No	Winner
£60	87	Michael & Angela Romeril
£50	374	J & Mrs C Skuse
£30	279	John & Ann Dowsett
£30	7	Carole Rolls
£20	87	Marnhull Garden Club
£20	28	W & R Gall
£15	304	Peter & Lynne Wood
£15	46	Barbara Russell
£10	114	D & Y Molem
£10	401	L & D Brockett

4 th September 2020 Draw held outside Robin Hill Stores		
Prize	Ticket No	Winner
£60	21	A G Lloyd
£50	317	Barbara Collins
£30	267	Hilary Parker
£30	220	Ros Eveleigh
£20	133	Jean Miller
£20	73	Marnhull Music Club
£15	396	M & J Irvine
£15	210	Sue Piper
£10	174	Catherine & Mark Turner
£10	227	Judy McTaggart

7 December 2020 Draw held outside Robin Hill Stores		
Prize	Ticket No	Winner
£100	404	P & G Sylvester
£60	62	Pam Downton
£50	227	Judy McTaggart
£30	376	Jeremy Watson
£30	6	Carole Rolls
£20	204	Yvonne Vintiner
£20	368	Helen & Keith Butler
£15	41	John W Pett
£15	229	Judy McTaggart
£10	112	MV & LA Ruth
£10	309	Peter & Lynne Wood

MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORTERS CLUB

APPLICATION FORM 1 Mar 2021- 28 Feb 2022

Name.....

Name must be the same as on your Bank Account, or a winning cheque may not be honoured

Address.....

Post Code.....

I/We wish to become a member(s) and purchase..... tickets at £6 per annum each to be entered into the prize draws. I/We enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to "Marnhull Village Hall".

Date.....

Signature.....

I am happy for the Treasurer to pay any winnings into my Bank Account

please tick box

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NEWS FROM DORSET TRADING STANDARDS

Collection Bags

How do you know if the collection bags dropping through your letterbox asking for your old clothes, shoes, CD and DVDs and other household items are genuine?

According to the National Fraud Investigation Bureau, charity bag fraud costs £50 million per year in the UK. Some charity bags are distributed by fraudulent collectors who claim that donated goods will go to charities, legitimate or otherwise, but have been pocketing the proceeds for themselves.

A large proportion of charity bag collections are genuine, and they will feature the charity's details and registered number on the bag. If you want to check them out then you can look up the charity from its registration number on the Charity Commission's website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission> or call the Charity Commission Helpline on 0300 066 9197

However as only English or Welsh charities need to be registered with the Charity Commission it means that it's more difficult to check an overseas-based charity and you may wish to take this into account when deciding whether to support the collection.

If you want to donate it's also worth being aware that some charity bag collections are run by legitimate commercial collectors on behalf of genuine charities. These commercial collectors will take a percentage of the profits for themselves. This is all perfectly legal but they should tell you this so check out the small print on the charity bag to see how much profit they will keep and make sure you are happy with that before you donate.

Trading

In trading standards we hear a lot about unfair trading and sub standard service. Many of us will have seen various programmes on the television about the rarer, but more extreme cases, of rogue trading.

How do you choose a trader?

How do you know if the person you have invited into your home to fix something is honest?

When making your choice we advise:

1. Get three quotes from different traders
2. Choose a trader from a recognised scheme

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The businesses are vetted and approved by professionally qualified Trading Standards Officers who will have been and visited the trader to ensure their compliance with the law and to help ensure they will provide a quality service. The business will have to pass tailored background checks which include each applicant being checked against the National Trading Standards complaints database. Continual monitoring is undertaken to ensure the integrity of the scheme.

Whilst we cannot promise that a Buy With Confidence member's work will be perfect every time, you can expect any problems to be dealt with fairly by the business and Trading Standards can offer to assist and help resolve any issues.

Look out for the Buy With Confidence logo - trading standards check traders so you don't have to.



Visit the website
www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or call The
Citizens Advice Consumer Service
0808 223 1133

OPEN GARDENS AT SPRINGHEAD

As I am sure you will understand, we regrettably had to cancel the planned Snowdrop Open Garden during February. We will of course let you know when Springhead is able to open again. If you would like to be kept up to date with what is happening at Springhead and would like to join our mailing list, please email - friends@springheadtrust.org.uk

In the meantime, I hope you stay safe and well.

Best wishes
Kate Partridge
Coordinator - Friends of Springhead

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Here in all its glory is the new rebranded logo of the Royal British Legion. Apparently only 40% of people link the Poppy Appeal with the RBL dropping to 20% in the 25 to 34 age group. Even stranger only 39% of people recognise the old logo, the new one still has the poppy at its heart and the font used is the one used on the tomb of the unknown warrior in Westminster Abbey. For those of us of a certain age it is incredible that people do not know what the poppy stands for but if you talk to teenagers about World War 1 you might as well be talking about the Battle of Agincourt. The Legion HQ however is at pains to stress the rebranding is not being paid for by funds taken from the Poppy Appeal.

Meanwhile this year's county annual conference was held remotely which by some miracle I managed to access on my computer. Although it was a one way communication as those of us at home could not contribute there were some interesting points raised by the speakers. Firstly they pointed out that this year commemorates 100 years of the British Legion as it was then. There are 12 Branches in Dorset that are celebrating their 100 years of service this year including Marnhull and there are events planned, but of course these are subjects to change or cancellations at the whim of the virus. We are planning to mark the occasion but again it is a watch and see policy.

On another note it was reported that Dorset raised £169,000 for the Poppy Appeal during the Appeal fortnight but nationally the total was down by £20 million. The Legion always carries a contingency fund for just such events but it obviously cannot continue indefinitely so fingers are crossed everywhere for a return to some kind of normality next November.

Meanwhile the Club stands forlorn and empty, perhaps by the summer we can return to our programme of entertainment. We have received some money from the government but not enough to cover outgoings, rent, lighting and heating, insurance, security and so on. The outgoings do not just stop because we are closed, the Club is a village commodity and we will need your help to get us over this calamity.

Lest We Forget

Sad to report the passing of Chris Phillips.

'Ditcher' was a Marnhull character who will be missed by his family and his many friends.

For Branch business contact Jack Whitehead on 01258 820800
or whiteheadjack51@gmail.com
For Hall business contact Tony Junge on 01258 820397



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FROM THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MARNHULL

On Friday 12th February members of the local churches gathered together on Zoom for the first time in almost a year to restart our monthly Marnhull Village Prayer.

We were fully aware of the hardship that the pandemic has brought to so many people in terms of their health, work, relationships, bereavement and schooling to name a few and we will continue to pray for everyone in our village, as we have been throughout the year, in our churches.

As we gathered to pray, our focus was on having thankfulness for God's provision, which has come in many ways during the pandemic, including through the generosity and kindness of friends and strangers - the Marnhull Helpline Scheme, the recent laptop project and ongoing support of local food banks are just a few great examples.

It was really good to meet one another again and our focus for prayer was based on this short reflection of the provision of manna to the Israelites on their 40 year journey through the wilderness:

The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers with honey.
Exodus 16:31

The story of the manna in the Old Testament is a timely reminder that God is faithful to provide in any desert. Exodus 16 holds the full account of the manna story: that for forty years God gave the Israelites enough to eat. The bread was not glamorous and the Israelites complained about it, but it brought life to them, where they would have died without it.

Everyone gathered just as much as they needed
Exodus 16:18

God gave them enough. The idea of having 'just enough' is counter cultural for us today and when we find ourselves without a reserve, we can get nervous or doubt God. But dwelling on the provision of God, who is our heavenly Father who knows our needs before we do, and then being thankful for the chance to grow in our faith and trust, will both bless us and honour God.

We are reminded not to resent those times when we have just enough. Our best response to God is one of gratitude and obedience.

We may not be travelling through a dry and dusty desert wilderness at the moment but we may be encountering daily challenges that can test our faith and trust in God's provision.

As a way of reminding ourselves of God's daily provision - and as we remember the Lord's Prayer "Give us today our daily bread" - we have challenged ourselves during this 6 week season of Lent to notice one thing, one provision from God each day to be thankful for - it can be as small as a smile from a friend to a dramatic answer to prayer - then write it down on a piece of paper and place the paper in an empty jar.

So as the jar fills up with paper during Lent, we are reminded about the provision God has made for us in our daily lives and prompts us to be more thankful! And when we gather next time (March 12th) there will be encouraging stories to share!

PS. This is a great activity for the family to do together during Lent!

With every blessing

From the Churches in Marnhull



THE METHODIST CHURCH



During the present difficult times our prayers are for everyone facing sadness, financial difficulties and education and work problems, especially for medical workers in our over-stretched hospitals.

Sunday Worship

To our great sorrow, our church building remains closed for services until such time as the situation with the pandemic makes it safe to open again. Sadly, it does not seem likely that this will be for some time but we invite you to keep an eye on the notice board by the Methodist Church where any changes will be announced.

Our Superintendent Minister Rev. Paul Arnold, and our Deacon, Rebekah-Joy Spinks, continue to provide service notes for each Sunday by email so that we are able to follow the readings, prayers and their reflections in our homes and know that we are all sharing in them at ten o'clock. They also suggest suitable hymns to read and, where available, a link to a performance on YouTube which is particularly welcome to Methodists deprived of communal hymn singing! Hard copies of the service notes are printed and distributed to people not on email.

Lent

This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 17th February, and continues until Easter on 4th April. It is sad to remember that the planned series of Lent Reflections and Lunches organised by Churches Together to be held in the Methodist Church and Hall in 2020 were the first activities to be interrupted by the Covid 19 pandemic a year ago. Few people imagined that we would still be unable to share in such events a year later. We shall badly miss the opportunity of joining with our friends from other churches and the village to reflect on the meaning of Lent and enjoy a simple lunch. Traditionally there has been the option of making a donation after the lunch to help people in this country or around the world for whom food is short. This year, when we consider how the pandemic is adding so many extra difficulties, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and unable to help in any meaningful way. As individuals, we shall attempt to follow the guidance attributed to John Wesley.

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."

Whether through directly assisting our families and neighbours or financially through the Christian organisations working around the world.

ST GREGORY'S CHURCH

All Sunday services are subject to change pending national covid guidance

Sunday 7th March - 3rd Sunday of Lent
10am - Facebook Service
11am - Coffee on Zoom
2 - 4pm - Church open for private prayer

Wednesday 10th
9 - 11am - Church open for private prayer
2pm - Lent course on Zoom

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Sunday 14th March - 4th Sunday / Mothering Sunday
10am - Facebook service
11am - Coffee on Zoom
2 - 4pm - Church open for private prayer

Wednesday 17th
9 - 11am - Church open for private prayer
2pm - Lent course on Zoom

Sunday 21st March - 5th Sunday of Lent / Passiontide begins
10am - Facebook service
11am - Coffee on Zoom
2 - 4pm - Church open for private prayer

Wednesday 24th
9 - 11am - Church open for private prayer
2pm - Lent course on Zoom

Sunday 28th March - Palm Sunday / Holy Week begins
10am - Facebook service
11am - Coffee on Zoom
2 - 4pm - Church for private prayer

Wednesday 31st
9 - 11am - Church open for private prayer
2pm - Lent course on Zoom

** Services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve and Easter Day to be confirmed in light of current covid guidance.

Please go to our Facebook page @stgregschurch or our website for the latest updates www.stgregorysmarnhull.org.uk

FROM THE BISHOP OF RAMSBURY



Lent has arrived, and a feeling that the fields are ready to unfurl again. We have been wintering in confinement and uncertainty, weary of the indoors and all too familiar with these four walls. But the barn doors of daylight

are slowly being hauled open and it is a relief to be approaching the spring once more, even if it reminds us how long we have been living with this extraordinary new life.

The approach to Lent called attention to our longings and desires - from Simeon and Anna at Candlemas, patiently waiting for the consolation of their people, to the wilderness temptations of Christ. Thirty years on, he embarks upon his ministry with acute awareness of all that might draw him away, winning the battle to assert that his first and only true appetite is for God, his Father. This is why some of us fast, of course: not to be slimmer or more successfully devout, but to reorder our priorities and insist upon seeking first the kingdom of heaven.

It is most encouraging - and often most effective - to do this in the little things. To address the countless small choices we make each day, almost without thinking. What we decide to buy, how we drive, or speak to others on the phone; remembering to turn, however briefly, to Christ before the difficult encounter. To adapt an old maxim, if we offer the minutes to God, the hours will look after themselves.

And before our own efforts, of course, we are reminded that the Lord goes before us, daily supplying our needs. Much has been taken away in recent months: may the onset of spring bring a renewal of your strength and hope, by the grace and mercy of God.

With the assurances of my prayers,
Bishop Andrew

OUR LADY'S CHURCH



**Catholic Church of Our Lady, Marnhull
&
St. Benedict's, Gillingham**
(www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk)

Sunday Masses - 9:30am & 6pm (Marnhull) / 11am (Gillingham)

Feast Days & Days of Special Prayer in March

1. Saint David, Bishop, Patron of Wales (Feast)

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

5. Women's World Day of Prayer

For all women who follow Christ: that they may be guardians and advocates for the seamless garment of life.

17. Saint Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland (Feast)

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

19. St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

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

25. The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)

The Annunciation is the prologue to the mysteries of Holy Week: the Incarnation happened so that we could be redeemed; the child conceived on this day was born to die for our sins and conquer death.

26. Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse (Special Prayer)

For all survivors and victims of sexual abuse, that may they find justice and come to know healing. Also for leaders of the Church, that they may lead with humility and mercy and seek to protect the vulnerable and the least.

Parish People

The funeral of Rosalyn Tivenan took place at St Benedict's on 27th January and the funeral of Linda Cook was held at Our Lady's on 8th Feb.

BIBLE PUZZLE

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some of his friends...

One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo, Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph.

During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi Lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers.

Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.
God Bless.

REV PETER COLEBROOK

It is now a year since the Rev Peter Colebrook died on 19/03/20. We hoped to have a Thanksgiving Service but lockdowns have meant continual postponements. Meantime we thought there should be a written account of his life and contribution.

Peter was educated at Wellington College and Durham University and ordained into the Anglican Ministry at Coates Hall Edinburgh in 1952, serving in Scotland, Birmingham and Devon. When Middle Schools were instituted in 1972 he trained as a mature student and joined a loyal team at Duchy Manor School in Mere. Health reasons led to retirement in 1989 but he then offered himself as Deacon at St Gregory's Church in Marnhull where he served for many years.

Peter had many interests. He was knowledgeable gardener and active with the International Tree Foundation planting in Dorset. He had a fine bass voice and sang regularly in choral societies, first at Bryanston where our daughter Sarah sang with her school and our son Will was a pupil.

Above all came Peter's Christian commitment. He was active in Christian Aid, organising collections in Marnhull and joining marches to demonstrate in London and talk with MPs at Westminster.

He cycled daily to church to say the Morning Office at 8:00, keeping this going when there was no Rector at Marnhull. Fellow clergy referred to his spiritual insight; combined with an incorrigible sense of fun!

Many newcomers wrote that Peter was the first to visit and make them feel welcome. PCC members felt Peter was always at hand and where there was need he gave of himself with instant, unselfish understanding and kindness. As one wrote "Marnhull has lost one of its great characters and he will be missed by us all for his personality, his faith and his kind hearted community spirit".

MEN'S SHED RECEIVES GRANT FROM MARNHULL MESSENGER



The Marnhull Men's Shed was delighted to be awarded a grant by the Messenger with which we were able to purchase a magnificent belt sander. Of course the Shed had to close its doors during the lockdown periods, but we did manage to achieve a few weeks of activity in the autumn by implementing some common sense distancing and hygiene rules.

The photo shows our new sander in action during that brief spell of comparative freedom.

The Men's Shed movement was inspired by the need to tackle loneliness and social isolation amongst older members of society and the Marnhull Shed has contributed to this aim at a local level. Lockdown, and the inevitable closure of the Shed, has meant that our progress has been set back significantly.

However, we prepare ourselves to rejoin the fight against isolation in the post vaccine world with the huge benefit of a strong organisation and personal friendships that have been formed over our first three years of existence.

For those who are wondering what happened to the door of the phone box in Burton Street, it's currently lying in pieces in the Shed workshop waiting for a new oak frame to be finished.

It will then need to be reassembled, painted and reglazed before it can be reinstalled in its proper place. Unfortunately all of this work was interrupted by the pandemic, but members are looking forward to getting back to the task as soon as conditions allow.

Our third AGM is fast approaching and there will inevitably be two big questions in everybody's mind. When will the Shed be able to safely reopen for business and how can we progress the search for permanent premises to house our workshop. A

nybody requiring more information can contact the Membership Secretary, Alan Loukes on 01258 821629

MESSENGER ARTICLES FOR THE FUTURE

With everyone having much more time on their hands, the Messenger is keen to include some new articles, ideas and thoughts from people in the village. Whether it is a little bit of history, a crafty idea to make or a great recipe you would like to share. Please don't be shy - send through any thoughts you might have on how we can all help each other to keep the mind and the body a bit busier.

Please send accompanying photos if possible to Rosie - rosiegall1@gmail.com or phone 01258 820484.

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A WAGGY TAIL BY FIONA NELSON



Nobody quite knows when dogs became man's best friend. It's been a long process of drawing closer together from the Ice Age through to the fashion of having lapdogs of today, and everything in between. It seems it all began with the wolf. Around 12,000 to 14,000 years ago, possibly due to climate change, man and wolf began to drift closer together.

It is thought that wolves vying for more limited meat sources were drawn to human camps to find scraps. Because it was so long ago, and before records were kept, we will never know for sure how the bond between the wolf and humans started. It is commonly acknowledged that it was these wolves pups who were first trained by humans and was the start of a transition from wild to domesticated, and dogs as we know them today are descendants of those animals.

There is evidence of dogs being treated with greater respect and even affection from here on. A late period Palaeolithic tomb in northern Israel revealed a touching scene, a man buried with his dog, the man's hand resting on the animal's shoulder, suggesting a tender bond between them.

As for pet ownership, this has a long history but initially only among the noble classes. Murals from Ancient Egypt depict pharaohs keeping companion animals, and Greek and Roman nobility certainly kept pets. Dogs belonging to Chinese emperors were said to have human wet nurses when they were puppies and in adulthood, their own servants. In Europe, dogs didn't really get lucky until the 17th Century, when pet keeping was popular among the aristocracy and some senior clergy. Noble ladies kept lap dogs, while the men preferred animals they deemed useful, such as hunting hounds. But it was the Victorians who firmly established the tradition, as well as many of the breeds we love today. The Kennel Club was founded in 1873, while Queen Victoria herself entered six Pomeranians into the first Crufts Dog Show in 1891.

Today, while some dogs are ornamental, think of tea cup dogs, or helpers including guide dogs, working and military dogs, most are simply much loved companions. It is well documented that having a furry friend, enjoying walks and cuddles and the warmth that comes with owning a pooch - can have positive, therapeutic effects on our health and emotional well being.

There are many of us living in Marnhull who enjoy the love and loyalty from our wonderful dogs. We are also blessed to live in a village that has so many lovely walks on our doorstep as well as many more not so far away. Most of us consider our dogs to be as much a part of the family as children and relatives. We give them the same love and care in return the love, loyalty and devotion we get back from them are priceless.

"The world would be a nicer place if everyone had the ability to love as unconditionally as a dog." - M.K. Clinton

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings.

"Dogs do laugh, but they laugh with their tails." - Max Eastman

MARNHULL GARDEN CLUB - BANKSIAN MEDAL AWARD 2020



Every year the Royal Horticultural Society award a Banksian Medal to the Marnhull Garden Club as part of our affiliated membership to their Society.

The Medal is named after the great scientist Sir Joseph Banks (1743 - 1820) and would normally be awarded at the Marnhull Flower Show to the person who has won

the most horticultural classes - except this year there was no show!

After careful consideration, the Garden Club have decided that the Medal should be presented to someone who has contributed to the wellbeing of others through their own love of gardening.

So in recognition of their continued endeavours and contribution over the years - organising charity plant sales and other fundraising events, we are incredibly pleased to announce that the Banksian medal for 2020 has been jointly awarded to George & Diana Stephens.

We are sure that heir plants are thriving in so many Marnhull gardens and thank them for their care and kindness as well as the considerable funds they have raised through their own efforts which have been gratefully appreciated by Help for Heroes.



MARNHULL LUNCH CLUB

I am sorry to have to tell you that our long time member Jean Braddy died in Salisbury Hospital recently.

Jean had been coming to the lunch for a long time when she was living in Ham Meadow, and when she decided that she needed to move somewhere smaller and moved to Abbeyfield in Shaftesbury, she continued coming, not least due to the efforts of Clive Gibbs who drove to collect her and return her after the meal.

Jean was a bright gregarious lady, who had found the present lockdown a very trying world to live in and we shall miss her.



ST GREGORY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



JOKE OF THE MONTH selected by Foxes class.

Q. Why should you not let a bear operate the remote?
A. He will keep pressing the paws button!

EXPRESS YOURSELF! The 1st week in February was Children's Mental Health Week and a theme of express yourself. The school is acutely aware of the unique stresses on all our children be they home schooling or learning on site at the school. So many things have altered and the old normal is beoming a distant memory, a focus on wellbeing offers a reminder of what really matters - that our children are safe and happy no matter where they may be.

To mark this special week children were invited to ditch their screens for the day and enjoy other pursuits. We are still so reliant upon our devices, it is nice to take a break, perhaps enjoy some wrapped up warm outdoor time or some pencil and paper artwork.

Children have been upping their heart rates and lowering stress levels with zoom fitness and relaxation classes, sessions are tailored to each year group and we have even seen the occasional parent joining in. Further physical challenges have been presented with an inter school virtual competition pitting approximately a dozen local schools against one another in a series of weekly challenges, a bit of competitive zeal has started to emerge which can only be a good thing.

The week was topped off with a wellbeing assembly bringing the whole school together via zoom. Mrs Field had the pleasure of lots of faces on her computer screen, some telling us all what they have been up to during this recent lockdown.

ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL! Thanks go to our wonderful community for donating laptops and iPads to our home-schooling families, it really does make such a difference, it is invaluable in our aim to keep our children at least ticking over with their education until such time as they can be welcomed back to the school. Home learning continues to be a huge challenge, thanks must also go to our children and parents that are trying their absolute best to keep children engaged in learning through extremely difficult circumstances.

A FRIENDLY MASKED FACE AT THE DOOR! Mrs Field has continued her weekly visits to see some of our children at home and a quick welfare chat does wonders for all concerned. Mrs Field can remind children they are indeed missed and not forgotten, and parents have an opportunity to share any concerns they may have.

A STEP BACK IN TIME! The school is very privileged to have in its possession some historical logbooks that record the comings and goings of St Greg's going way back. Should this writer be able to accurately read these accounts, it is our aim to give a snapshot from various era's as to what went on within the school. For starters we turn to 24th May 1932: "Empire Day Celebration - held in the school at 11am when Colonel Adams addressed a large gathering of children and friends. A short programme of songs, historical plays and dances was given by the children. The address given by Colonel Adams was excellent."



Programme:

- 1 - Massed Singing: Jerusalem - Parry
- 2 - Chairman: Rev'd Canon Hellins
- 3 - Singing Game: Bingo - Infants
- 4 - The Guardians: Song - Seniors
- 5 - Circle Dance: Infants
- 6 - Tommy Snooks: Songs - Class 3
- Down By The Sea: Song - Class 3
- 7 - The Daisy: Babies
- 8 - Caradoc: Class 3
- 9 - George And The Dragon: Class 2
- 10 - Singing Game: Cats and Beans - Class 3
- 11 - Alfred and the Cakes: Infants
- 12 - Massed Song: England - Parry

God save the King!

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



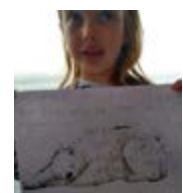
St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

It has been a busy and strange half term at the school. We would like to pass on our thanks to children who have worked so hard despite mostly being at home and the parents who have really engaged with our remote learning and have done a fantastic job! There have been a wide variety of learning completed both on and offline including lots of exercise, lots

of baking and lots of creativity. Below are some updates and highlights from the half term. During Lent we are taking part in CAFOD's 'Walk for Water' and the children and staff are seeing how many miles they can walk during Lent. We have a link to our Just Giving Page on the school website if anyone would like to support our efforts or see how many miles we are managing to do.

St Anthony's

Children at home and school have been absolute superstar this term! We have been so impressed with them and it has been great to see them becoming more and more independent with their learning. This term's topic Polar Bears and Penguins has been great for exploring snowy habitats and we've also enjoyed some of our own snowy weather! The children's favourite activities have been using the internet to learn facts about penguins then creating their own factual pictures and writing. Sharing the book 'Leaf' by Sandra Diekmann and exploring the main character's emotions. The book is a heart-warming story about helping outsiders that highlights the plight of polar bears in changing climates. The children created amazing posters to share important messages about climate change.



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St Mark's Class

This term the Year 2/3 children have been completing some fantastic home learning activities, based on their topic 'Great Britain'. The children have learnt about the names and locations of the 7 continents and 5 oceans, finding out some fun facts and researching more about the continents of the world. We have also been learning about castles within the United Kingdom and learning about the key features and their purpose. Poetry has been the main theme of our Literacy lessons, with children writing some of their own similes, alliteration and rhyming language within their own poems. The children have been working super hard and we are very proud of their commitment, determination and creativity both in school and at home.

The first week of February was Children's mental health week. We encouraged the children to express themselves and their feelings by choosing their own clothes, colours and hairstyles. We also reflected on what makes us special and allowed time for some outside activities to support the children in finding some calm and talking about their feelings during this time.

St Francis' Class

We had a great week during the Big Garden Birdwatch Week. We made bird feeders out of recycled materials both at home and at school. The children enjoyed watching birds land on them and counting the different types of birds they saw. We have also had some bird boxes and a bird table kindly donated to the school from a member of the community in the village.



The school have also had some Oak trees donated from the village. The children enjoyed planting them around the school grounds.



St Alban's Class

One thing our children have really enjoyed this half term is the children's project about the British Empire. Being at home has allowed a lot more creativity with what the children produced with a particular favourite being traditional baking challenges.



Tracey Beaker Super Fan Competition. From hundreds of entries hers was chosen and she had to compete with other children answering questions on CBBC. At the time of writing she had made it through to the quarter-finals and semi-finals and she is appearing on TV tonight. We are very excited.



St Mary's Explorers

Explorer's have been doing a bit of globetrotting this term. We have visited both poles and learnt about the animals that live here. The children have really enjoyed exploring books with a penguin or polar bear theme. Together we shared the book 'Emporor's Egg' which tells the story and lifecycle of the penguin. 'Be Brave Little Penguin' was another hit with the children and they enjoyed the opportunity to share their own stories of being brave and those things that worry or frighten them. We have enjoyed creating our own artwork based on these polar animals. It has been great seeing the children enjoying messy printing and collage activities and the finished products are really sweet. The children were fascinated to learn that even though we often see penguins and polar bears together in books they will never meet. It was great getting the globes out and seeing how far apart they lived.

With our cold weather over the last month we have also had plenty of opportunity to explore our own ice and snow! The children learnt how important is it to look after the wildlife around us in these cold conditions. They loved creating bird feeders using recycling material and they have really brightened up our outdoor area.

An exciting preschool led by fully qualified teacher.

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





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DO YOU KNOW YOUR BLUEBELLS?



Bluebells are about to come into their own. They're associated with ancient woodlands and are often used in combination with other species as a clue that a wood is ancient.

Locally we are very fortunate to have the beautiful annual display at nearby Duncliffe Woods. On an early spring day, a walk through the woods breathing in their beautiful scent is so uplifting for the soul. But you can tell your British from your Spanish?

Our native bluebells are usually deep violet-blue in colour, bell-shaped with six petals and up-turned tips. These sweet-smelling flowers nod or droop to one side of the flowering stem and have creamy white-coloured pollen inside.



However, Spanish bluebells grow upright, with the flowers all around the stem, not drooping to one side like the British bluebell. Of course, inevitably there are now Hybrid bluebells, the results often look very similar in appearance to our native bluebell but threaten its existence by out-competing it and diluting the gene pool.

Bluebells have been used for a variety of different things throughout history. Their sticky sap was once used to bind

the pages of books and glue the feathers onto arrows, and during the Elizabethan period, their bulbs were crushed to make starch for the ruffs of collars and sleeves. Due to their toxicity, there has been little use for bluebells in modern medicine. However, their bulbs have diuretic (increases urination) and styptic (helps to stop bleeding) properties, and research on how these flowers could potentially help fight cancer is ongoing.

The bluebell is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). This means diggin up the plant or bulb in the countryside is prohibited and landowners are also prohibited from removing bluebells from their land to sell. The British Bluebell species is listed in Schedule 8 of the Act which makes trading in wild bluebell bulbs and seeds an offence. This legislation was designed to protect the bluebell from unscrupulous bulb collectors who supply garden centres.

CHRIS'S RECIPE CORNER - CHICKEN EN PAPILOTE



This is a versatile way of cooking a selection of vegetables together with fish or chicken.

En papillote translates as 'in parchment', literally describing the cooking method which involves steaming fish, meat or vegetables in a pouch of parchment and/or foil and baking in the oven. The parcel traps in any moisture released while cooking, resulting in a tender, moist and really succulent meal.

Prepare en Papillote: First, for each portion, cut out a square of foil and baking parchment, about 400mm / 16 inches square, and lay the parchment on top of the foil. Fold the paper and foil in half and cut out the paper into a heart shape. You can make your parcels with just parchment, though it requires more care to get the seal, which is needed to make a perfect pouch for steaming the ingredients.

Ingredients (Serves 4)

- 1 leek
- 1 sweet potato
- ½ butternut squash
- ½ bunch of sage or rosemary
- 2 tbs olive or coconut oil
- Splash of wine (optional)
- 4 chicken breasts
- Chopped flat-leaf parsley to garnish

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C (180°C fan)
2. Prepare the leek and finely slice. Peel the sweet potato and slice into thin sticks and dice the butternut squash. Remember to keep all the vegetables a similar size and thickness so they can cook evenly.
3. Assemble the papillote by adding the squash, sweet potato and leeks to one side of the paper. Now add the sage or rosemary, which you need to chop finely and sprinkle over the ingredients. Add the oil and a pinch of salt. Lay the chicken on top of the vegetables.
4. Fold the edges of the papillote all the way around until you have a tiny gap for your white wine if you choose to add this. Pour in and seal up. See the photo on how to do this.

CONTINUED PAGE RIGHT





5. Transfer your parcels to a roasting tin and put in the preheated oven for approx. 20 minutes.

6. Unwrap the papillotes and sprinkle with the chopped parsley and serve straight away with new potatoes.

POPPIN CAFE



As we write this article, we are still in lockdown and in addition we have had some freezing cold weather to contend with! The word resilience comes to mind and it never fails to surprise us just how resilient we all are as human beings. There is light at the end of the tunnel now and every time we step outside we see reminders of just how

wonderful this world is, moving in to spring. Despite all our positivity we really still cannot predict how soon we will all be able to meet up at the Village Hall again but be sure that day will come!

We always love celebrating Valentine's Day at the POPPin, to make sure we spread as much LOVE and CAKE as we can around the village! However, although we were unable to meet up this year, the POPPin is thrilled to have been given the opportunity to fund an idea presented to us by Rev. Gaenor Hockey of St. Gregory's Church. She had noticed that the children at St. Gregory's School were finding this current lockdown increasingly challenging, were missing their friends and asked for suggestions as to how we might help to lift their spirits a little. After much thought, we came up with the idea of each child being given a smiley face badge as a way of acknowledging how tricky times are for them and to helpfully, put a little smiley sunshine into their day. Thank you to Rev. Gaenor Hockey and St. Gregory's Church for allowing us to be part of this lovely gesture to the children from us all, 100 Smiley Badges should be arriving at both St. Gregory's and St. Mary's School very soon.

And now the moment you have all been waiting for! The answers to the POPPin Cake Quiz 2021!

1. Chocolate
2. Fondant
3. Singing Hinny
4. Lamington
5. Chelsea Bun
6. Opera Cake

STAY SAFE!

Linda, Sue, Rosie, Jill, Anne, Audrey and Lynda.



'YOU DON'T KNOW ME BUT...'



Dorset's rural touring arts charity, Artsreach, is pleased to present Stute Theatre's 'You Don't Know Me But...'; a new show written and performed by winning theatre maker Sophia Hatfield and directed by Olivier Award Winning Theatre and BBC Radio Director Gwenda Hughes.

Performed live over the telephone, this innovative piece allows audience members the opportunity to experience a real live theatre performance from the comfort of their own home, at a time when live face-to-face theatre is not possible.

Meet Vick. Care giver, Mother, Partner and Daughter. You've almost certainly walked past her in the street, stood behind her in a queue or driven past her in your car. Now take the time to delve a little deeper and experience a day in her life.

Vick is a care worker in a residential home. As her working day progresses, hear her running from place to place, helping residents to dress, keeping them calm and offering a friendly ear to talk to. But today, something is different. The day's encounters gradually uncover a deeply hidden memory and Vick finds herself transported back to her childhood, where a traumatic incident changes her outlook forever...

Inspired by real memories and interviews from a care home, this innovative and intimate 20-minute audio play highlights unsung stories of everyday care across generations and celebrates the dedication and spirit of workers and residents in care homes across the UK. Expect live music, beautiful writing and immersive sound effects in this unique approach to socially distanced theatre.

Writer / performer Sophia of Stute Theatre said: "It's a privilege to perform such a relevant play and highlight the often hidden stories of care and the wonderful contribution care workers make to society."

There are just 30 telephone performances slots available for You Don't Know Me But, between 3pm and 7pm on the 15th, 16th, 27th and 28th March. Booking is essential and this play is suitable for ages 16+. Find out more and secure one of these limited tickets by visiting the Artsreach website www.artsreach.co.uk or by calling 01305 269512.

"Beautifully presented. The atmosphere of theatre, with a lovely individual experience."

Audience Member, July 2020



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DORSET TECH - PROVING THAT HIGH STREETS ARE NOT DEAD

In a challenging year that has presented significant challenges to both businesses and the traditional high streets in Dorset and further afield due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, one business that has bucked the trend by investing in new jobs and premises is Gillingham based Dorset Tech, a social enterprise digital agency comprising web and smartphone app development, technology repairs, digital marketing and more.

The end of 2019 has seen the business move to Gillingham from its previous premises on the outskirts of Sturminster Newton and now occupying two shops on the high street. With both stores on the main high street of the Gillingham town centre, it offers both a front-facing "superhero themed" shop featuring a range of products from merchandise to clothing which opened at the start of 2020 in addition to the newly opened "Dorset Tech Bar", which opened in October 2020, a few doors down, offering the majority of the company's core services including web design, technology repairs and equipment sales. Both stores are accessible to the general public providing a vital and distinctive addition to a thriving town high street.



In addition to the new stores, Dorset Tech has also invested in 11 new jobs for local people with the hiring of a number of web development and technology repair specialists enabling the company to rapidly expand the range of services it offers to its customers, both new and existing. A further expansion of job roles is anticipated to be announced in coming months.

Chris Ryu, founder of Honest Tech Group, owners of Dorset Tech said: "In a year where many businesses, including some of our competitors have really struggled with the challenges faced by the coronavirus pandemic and the impact its had on businesses, it's been a real source of pride for us at Dorset Tech to be able to arrive in Gillingham and rapidly expand at a pace that even exceeded my own expectations".

"Since becoming part of the Gillingham high street, we've felt right at home in a high street that is vibrant and welcoming and like many high street survivors and thrivers we're really looking forward to what this year will bring!"

Josh Horsley, one of the employees taken on by Dorset Tech in 2020 as a 'Tech Hero' added: "Previous to joining Dorset Tech I had worked in a number of low-grade jobs including in a warehouse. I was taken on by Dorset Tech and given training in a job that is the start of a career rather than just a job and it gives me the opportunity to make a living from something I'm heavily interested in with a great progression path. It's as close to a dream job as I could get."

"Dorset Tech is a fun and friendly place where no two days are identical. I never thought I'd enjoy a customer facing job but I love doing this and delivering great things for our customers. Chris as an employer is great too, and I say this without him waving a fiver behind my back to say as much."

FROM DORSET LIBRARIES - STURMINSTER NEWTON

Sadly, our library is closed again for the duration of this third lockdown. However, we are still operating an order and collect service so if you would like to order some books and arrange a time to collect them, please call 03105 228400 or go online to <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/.../dorset-libraries...>

The library catalogue is still open for reservations and these can also be collected by booking a slot.

Our order and collect slots are:

- Monday: 9:00am - 1:00pm
- Tuesday: 9:00am - 1:00pm
- Thursday: 9:00am - 1:00pm
- Saturday: 9:00am - 12:30pm

Thank you for your support
Tracey and Rosanna

FLOODING - DRAINS, GUTTERS AND VERGES

It may be during the current lockdown that we have had more time to observe the weather than usual, but it does seem to have been a wet winter so far. The absolute amount of rainfall and the increased frequency of intense storms has created a significant amount of surface run off which in turn has caused localised flooding in low lying parts of the village. Several residents have also noted that mud, gravel and other detritus have blocked drains in certain places, and this has exacerbated the flooding issues.

During the trials of the last year with the Covid-19 pandemic it has been fantastic how the village has pulled together and we have helped each other out. The Parish Council would like to ask for your help again to mitigate the impact of flooding on our community. Please make every effort to minimise the amount of soil, gravel, vegetation and other debris that washes from your gardens and driveways into the gullies and roadways, particularly where building or gardening work is being carried out.

Maintenance of the roads and gullies, drains and manholes is the responsibility of Dorset Council's Highways Department, who do an excellent job but have limited resources. If you are aware of blocked drains or gullies there is a very simple on-line form to report them to the Highways Department which again can mean a more rapid resolution of flooding problems for your fellow villagers. The form is available at the following link:

<https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/report-a-gully--drain-or-flooding-issue>

This is something we need to actively embrace as a community. The only certainty with our weather is it is unpredictable, but we can all contribute to minimise the adverse effects of flooding in our beautiful village.

Steve Winder, Flood Warden, for and on behalf of Marnhull Parish Council.

MARNHULL CALENDAR 2022 - CALL FOR PHOTOS



With the need to get out and exercise over the past 12 months many of you have been taking beautiful photos, whilst out on your ramblings around the village. With such talent around, the Village Hall Fundraising team thought we should capture these moments in a Marnhull Village Calendar for 2022, which will be printed and available to buy in time for this Christmas. The calendar will be sold and every penny of profit will go to support the Village Hall improvements.

We can only accept photos of village scenes, the countryside, flora and fauna, animals and the habitat around the village. Sorry but no identifiable people or children please in the photographs.

We welcome photographs from everyone in the village, whatever age and are happy to receive them at any time up to 30 September. We plan to show a small selection on the Marnhull Facebook page each month, until december. Every picture will be credited and considered as a potential winner for inclusion in the final calendar. The selected pictures, as chosen by our guest judges, will make up our *Images of Marnhull Calendar 2022*.

How to send us your picture

Please include full details of where and when the picture was taken, the name of the photographer and a contact address and telephone number. Pictures should be in landscape format and attached as jpeg files. You may want to reduce the size of your picture for ease of e-mailing, but please let us know if you have a higher quality version available, should your picture be selected for inclusion in the printed calendar.

For printing purposes, the picture originals must have a minimum resolution of 300dpi and be at least 21cm x 29cm (roughly 10" x 8" or A4) in size. By sending in your picture, you grant the Marnhull Village Hall the right to publish it. Email: chris@christine-drake.com alternatively, deliver your pictures to: Clock House, Burton Street, Marnhull DT10 1PH.

NATURE ON PRESCRIPTION



With the clear, frosty nights many of us have admired the beautiful night sky - we are so lucky to live where we have little light pollution. But this month, on March 20th we will experience the Spring Equinox. This is when the sun shines directly on the Equator and the length of the night and day are nearly equal. This is the reason it's called the "equinox", derived from the Latin "Equal Night". Interestingly too, the Full Moon on March 28th is traditionally called the Worm Moon, after earthworms that tend to appear around this time!

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are nearly equal. This is the reason it's called the "equinox", derived from the Latin "Equal Night". Interestingly too, the Full Moon on March 28th is traditionally called the Worm Moon, after earthworms that tend to appear around this time!

So at last we will be able to say this is the real start of Spring - thank goodness - I hear you cry! The wonderful Dorset countryside that we live in will be starting to wake up again. We will experience sunnier days providing the opportunity to begin the year's gardening tasks. It's time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seeds, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden.

March can be quite a difficult time for garden wildlife. Temperatures can still fall below zero at night so invertebrates such as earthworms, beetles and caterpillars may still be taking shelter. Garden birds have eaten all the berries and with less invertebrate food available, they can often go hungry, so remember to top up your bird feeders. It is also a key month for breeding amphibians. Frogs start breeding first, laying clumps of jelly-like spawn at pond edges usually in the first week of March but in recent years even earlier. Toads start about 2 weeks later and prefer larger ponds and lay ribbons of spawn around the edges. Finally newts wrap their eggs individually in marginal plant leaves such as water forget-me-knot.

A pond can be created from something as simple as an old washing up bowl, an old bin or by simply digging a hole and lining it with an old carpet and pond liner. It does take time to settle but you will be amazed how quickly it gets occupied.

Hedgehogs are emerging from hibernation in March and need to build up their fat reserves for breeding. Put out food and water from dusk and make sure you discard anything that is left over first thing the next morning. They prefer meat based cat or dog food in jelly - and I've been told they prefer chicken flavour!

Bees can emerge from hibernation as early as February and can still be flying around in November. So wherever possible think about putting in flowering plants that bloom throughout the year. Bees love all flowers but are most attracted to colour purple - so plants like allium, lavender, buddleia, verbena and catmint are excellent. Tubular plants like Penstemon and Foxglove are also excellent sources of pollen and nectar. If you are limited on space a simple planted container with spring pretty bulbs can provide excellent colour to your doorstep and garden as well as much needed food for our bees.



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A PIECE OF VILLAGE SHOPPING HISTORY



We are really well served by our village shops and businesses, but even they would have been pushed to compete with Curtis's Stores who many years ago, were at the top of Burton Street where the Curtain Man, James Colmer's hairdressers and the Hub are now situated.

A copy of their price list, probably from the 1920s has come to light and although we have been unable to find much information about the business, the price list states that they had been established for over a century and one of the pictures is dated 1913.

Inside is a treasure trove of an immense range of products, from food and provisions, to clothing and shoes, drapery and millinery, china, glass and ironmongery - even furniture!

A 26 piece Marlot Dinner service, (in dark blue) would set you back 12s 6d (that's 62.5p for the young amongstus) or about £20 at today's prices. If you were looking for a bit of fine dining, perhaps some Lobster or Oysters, the Index points you towards "See Fish in Tins." Our four-legged friends were also catered for and Naldire's Worm Powders were a shilling and their Dog Soap was a mere 8½d.

William's 'Pink Pills' were launched in 1886 and were originally advertised as "Pink Pills for Pale People - tonic for the blood and nerves to treat anaemia, clinical depression, poor appetite and lack of energy. These cost 2s 3d - you were probably better off using Dog Soap!

It really is a wonderful snapshot of times gone by and if you know more about the history or have memories of Curtis's Stores, or indeed any other village activity, then we'd love to hear from you and share it with the village.

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Golden Cream, Mc V. & P.	...	0 7
„ Puff, P. F.	...	0 7
Home, Mc V. & P.	...	0 5
Honey, Mc F. & L.	...	0 7
Jam Pastry, Mc V. & P.	...	0 7
„ Roll, P. F.	...	0 7
Keil Finger, Carr	...	0 10

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MAKING BIRD FEEDERS WITH ITEMS IN YOUR HOME

If you enjoy watching all the different birds that come into your garden and want them as frequent visitors throughout the year or you just want to do something a little bit extra for them in these chilly months, well look no further! Here are a few ways you can make bird feeders with the help of a few items in your home.

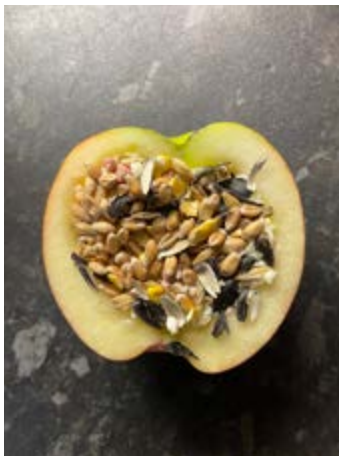
The Apple Birdfeeder



Ingredients

- 4 Apples
- 2 cups of birdseed
- 2/3 cup of water
- 2 packets of unflavoured gelatin
- 8 small screws
- Twine or ribbon

1. In a small saucepan on medium heat mix water and gelatin, stir until the gelatin is completely dissolved.
2. Once dissolved remove the heat and add in the birdseed and mix.
3. Cut the apples in half and scoop out the core so it looks like a little bowl.
4. Fill each apple with the mixture of birdseed and put them either on a small tray or plate and pop them in the fridge to set (roughly 1-2 hours or until they're firm)
5. Once they're firm enough, poke a screw into the top of the side of the apple leaving a little gap for you to tie a piece of twine on.
6. Hang outside for the birds to enjoy



If you and your children have been keen bakers throughout lockdown and have some cookie cutters to hand, this one is for you!

Birdseed tree ornaments



Ingredients

- 2 cups of birdseed
- 2/3 cups of water
- 2 packets of unflavoured gelatin
- Straws
- Twine or ribbon
- Cooking spray or butter
- Fun shaped cookie cutters
- Grease proof paper

1. In a small saucepan on medium heat mix water and gelatin, stir well until the gelatin is completely dissolved.
2. Once dissolved, remove the heat and add in the birdseed and mix well
3. Line a small tray or plate with grease proof paper. Spray the inside of your chosen cookie cutters with cooking spray or you can thinly coat the inside of your cookie cutters with butter
4. Fill each cookie cutter with your birdseed mix, once you've put a layer or two of birdseed make space for a the straw (this it to make hole for you to hang it, so make sure not to do it too close to the edge of your cookie cutter) pat your birdseed down as you go and continue to fill until you reach the top of your cookie cutter
5. Now pop them in your fridge for 1-2 hours or until the gelatin is set
6. Once set, remove the straws and cookie cutters and tie your twine or ribbon and they're ready to hang outside!



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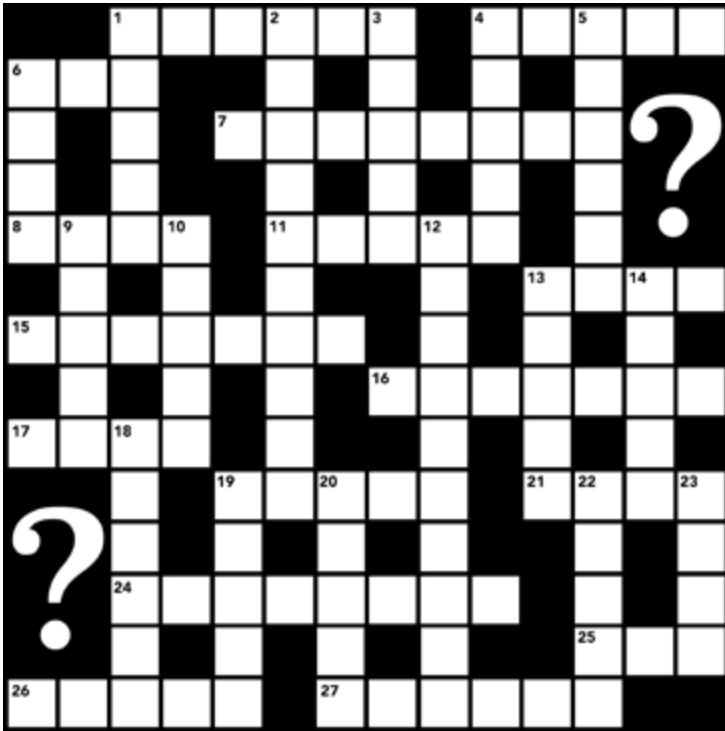
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ACROSS

- 1) City sacked by Boudicca in AD61. (6)
- 4) Loose fibre made of old rope used to caulk wooden ships. (5)
- 6) Drummer Keith Moon played with this group. (3)
- 7) In Chinese thought a system of laws used to govern spatial arrangement. (8)
- 8) Mountain goat of Eurasia and NE Africa. (4)
- 11) Homer Simpson's wife. (5)
- 13) Simplified form of poker. (4)
- 15) In the US a name often applied to an unidentified corpse. (7)
- 16) Seed eating songbird related to the finches. (7)
- 17) A religious song of praise. (4)
- 19) President of Syria (5)
- 21) An American. (4)
- 24) Thick cotton fabric with velvety ribs. (8)
- 25) Broad sash worn around a kimono. (3)
- 26) City in the Netherlands famous for cheese making. (5)
- 27) Sturdy hunting dog with a long body, short legs and long ears. (6)

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

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

DOWN

- 1) A beaver's den. (5)
- 2) American animation studio. (10)
- 3) Country and river of West Africa. (5)
- 4) Earthy pigment of yellow, brown or red colour. (5)
- 5) The German Emperor. (6)
- 6) In Arabic speaking countries a valley or ravine or channel that is dry except in the rainy season. (4)
- 9) Large tropical seabird of the gannet family. (9)
- 10) Member of the noble gas series symbol Xe. (5)
- 12) US rodents also known as woodchucks. (10)
- 13) In Scotland a small cottage or mountain refuge hut for farm labourers. (5)
- 14) See 23D).
- 18) A member of the people who formed the last Imperial dynasty of China. (6)
- 19) The main artery of the body. (5)
- 20) A young unfledged pigeon. (5)
- 22) Racecourse six miles from Windsor Castle. (5)
- 23) and 14D) Ghanain diplomat who serves as the seventh Secretary General of the United Nations. (4-5)

Marnhull Village Care
A warm welcome to the Village & Support in our Community



HAVE YOU MOVED HERE SINCE OCTOBER 2019?

If so, we need to hear from you?

For a number of years Marnhull Village Care has welcomed new people to the village by holding a Social Evening in October. Sadly, as we are all aware this year is a bit different however there will be a time when we can again hold social events and with that in mind, we would like you to contact us with the following information.

Names of all those in your household

Address

Contact telephone number.

Email address

So, we can compile an invitation list to this most prestigious event. Please send details or contact our Secretary as follows:

Secretary: Hilary Parker 01258 821667.

Email: <hilaryjparker85a@gmail.com>

Trevor Vaughan

Chairman

**ALL PUZZLE ANSWERS ON
PAGE 28**



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