

THE MARNHULL MESSENGER

MAY 2025 | ISSUE 153

www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk

UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

| Page 15

MARNHULL BUS CHANGE

| Page 22



Our Schools

See what the schools are up to

| Page 19



In Our Churches

All the latest news from the churches

| Page 17



The Surgeries

*What's new from our local doctors
surgeries*

| Page 5



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WELCOME TO YOUR MARNHULL MESSENGER

CHRIS RYU
Messenger Editor



Welcome back to your new look Marnhull Messenger.

I believe I was wrong last month and this issue in fact marks my 10th anniversary as Marnhull Messenger Editor. Thanks for the messages of support.

It's been a busy month and the Butts Close planning inquiry seems to have gripped the village. I really enjoyed hearing the views of those for an against. By the time this goes to print the outcome of the inquiry should have been announced. Whichever way it goes, hopefully we can now get back to living our peaceful lives in the village.

As predicted, I received some online attacks since the last issue from the usual suspects. The individuals were removed from the village Facebook Group and the group has already become a more peaceful place. Some individuals that apologised and committed to "behave" were allowed back in and so far so good. Thank you to those who supported us throughout the bizarre period.

Bus Change

I was surprised as many were, that Marnhull has been cut out of the CR4 bus service this month. I've heard from some that rely on this service, in one case daily. This is obviously disappointing. I've written to the council and First to provide feedback and ask for the reason why. I'll report back on the Facebook Group and in the next issue.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS INTO A LIVE CALENDAR

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

VILLAGE HELP

NORCAT - Bookings 10am - 3pm - 01258 472164

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

Marnhull Village Care Car Service:

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.

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

MID-DAY 14th May

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

EDITOR & WEBMASTER:	Chris Ryu editor@marnhullmessenger.org.uk
ADVERTISING:	Rosie Gall rosiegall1@gmail.com
TREASURER:	Kim Harden treasurer@marnhullmessenger.org.uk
CIRCULATION:	Catherine & Mark Turner circulation@marnhullmessenger.org.uk
CHAIRMAN:	Ian Gall chairman@marnhullmessenger.org.uk 01258 820484
ADMINISTRATOR:	Fiona Nelson administrator@marnhullmessenger.org.uk

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.

ANNUAL DIARY 2025

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

May

- 1st - Thursday
Craft Club @ 10:00 Methodist Hall
- 2nd - Friday
Lunch Club @ 12:00
- 3rd - Saturday
The Marnhull Hub and Repair Café @ 10:00
The Rebbels @ 20:00 British Legion
- 5th - Monday
Pound Fitness @ 09:30 British Legion
Table Tennis - Monday @ 14:00
Lyn's Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion Club
- 6th - Tuesday
Walking Football @ 09:45 Village Recreation Ground
Bridge Club @ 13:30 Methodist Hall
- 7th - Wednesday
Fitsteps dance and exercise class @ 11:15
Table Tennis - Wednesday @ 14:00
Community Choir @ 18:30
Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion
- 8th - Thursday
Women's Institute - VE Day Celebration Coffee Morning @ 10:00
VE Day Commemoration @ 11:00 War memorial
Marnhull Green Teams - Reduce and Reuse evening @ 19:00
- 9th - Friday
Blackmore Vale Art Group @ 10:00
Karaoke Night With Jaydee @ 18:00
British Legion Club
- 10th - Saturday
The Marnhull Hub and Repair Café @ 10:00
Superleague Darts - No music @ 20:00
British Legion Club
- 11th - Sunday
VE Day street party @ 14:00 British Legion Club
- 12th - Monday
Pound Fitness @ 09:30 British Legion
Table Tennis - Monday @ 14:00
Women's Institute - Resolutions & Beetle Drive @ 19:30
- 13th - Tuesday
Walking Football @ 09:45 Village Recreation Ground
Bridge Club @ 13:30 Methodist Hall
Garden Club @ 19:00
- 14th - Wednesday
Fitsteps dance and exercise class @ 11:15
Table Tennis - Wednesday @ 14:00
Community Choir @ 18:30
Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion
- 16th - Friday
Marnhull Community Cafe @ 10:00
- 17th - Saturday

- Marnhull Garden Club - Plant Sale @ 10:00
Marnhull Green Teams - Giveaway - Takeaway Day @ 10:00 Recreation Ground
The Marnhull Hub and Repair Café @ 10:00
Girl's Brigade Craft Fair @ 14:00 Methodist Hall
Mustang Sally @ 20:00 British Legion

- 19th - Monday
Pound Fitness @ 09:30 British Legion
Table Tennis - Monday @ 14:00
Lyn's Bingo @ 19:00 British Legion Club
Marnhull Music Society @ 19:15
Marnhull Music Society Presents MUSIC-PLUS @ 19:15

- 20th - Tuesday
Walking Football @ 09:45 Village Recreation Ground
Organ Recital @ 12:00 St Gregory's
Bridge Club @ 13:30 Methodist Hall
Marnhull Green Teams - Disease Resistant Elms Talk and AGM @ 19:30

- 21st - Wednesday
Fitsteps dance and exercise class @ 11:15
Table Tennis - Wednesday @ 14:00
Community Choir @ 18:30
Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion

- 23rd - Friday
Figure Drawing @ 10:30

- 24th - Saturday
The Marnhull Hub and Repair Café @ 10:00
How to plan for the end of life workshop with Nicky Donaldson @ 14:00
Scandals @ 20:00 British Legion Club

- 25th - Sunday
Marnhull Entertains - ELO @ 19:00

- 26th - Monday
Pound Fitness @ 09:30 British Legion
Table Tennis - Monday @ 14:00

- 27th - Tuesday

- Walking Football @ 09:45 Village Recreation Ground
Bridge Club @ 13:30 Methodist Hall

- 28th - Wednesday
Fitsteps dance and exercise class @ 11:15
Table Tennis - Wednesday @ 14:00
Community Choir @ 18:30
Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion

- 31st - Saturday
The Marnhull Hub and Repair Café @ 10:00
Freddie Mercury Tribute - Dean Richardson @ 20:00 British Legion

June

- 2nd - Monday
Pound Fitness @ 09:30 British Legion
Table Tennis - Monday @ 14:00

- 3rd - Tuesday
Walking Football @ 09:45 Village Recreation Ground
Bridge Club @ 13:30 Methodist Hall

- 4th - Wednesday
Fitsteps dance and exercise class @ 11:15
Table Tennis - Wednesday @ 14:00
Community Choir @ 18:30
Pound Fitness @ 19:00 British Legion

- 5th - Thursday
Craft Club @ 10:00 Methodist Hall
MAP - Film 'The Present' and Nibbles @ 19:00

- 6th - Friday
Lunch Club @ 12:00

- 7th - Saturday
Jumble Sale @ 10:00 British Legion
The Marnhull Hub and Repair Café @ 10:00

- 9th - Monday
Pound Fitness @ 09:30 British Legion
Table Tennis - Monday @ 14:00
Women's Institute - Call My Bluff with Morgan Antell @ 19:30

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and click on 'Book the Village Hall'

For general enquiries, email:

bookings@marnhullvillagehall.org.uk
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SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS INTO
A LIVE CALENDAR

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

www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk



FROM THE SURGERIES

Practice Update

• As Spring arrives, we are making preparations for the Spring Covid clinics which are planned for Saturday 10th and 17th May at The Exchange in Sturminster Newton. Eligibility for the Spring Booster is below - Invitations have been sent out but if you have not received an invitation and are eligible, please contact the Practice via telephone or SystmConnect and we can book you in:

o Adults aged 75 and over by 17 June 2025

o Individuals aged 18 and over who are immunosuppressed

• Dr Sam Moorcroft, who is currently providing maternity cover for Dr Julia Cornish at Abbey View, will now remain with the Practice on a permanent basis once Dr Cornish returns in August. This will provide additional capacity at Abbey View.

• Dr Molly Anderson, who has previously worked for the Practice on a Locum basis, will join our Sturminster Newton Medical Centre in June, again providing additional capacity.

• Dr Michiru Nakamura will return to the Practice after maternity leave on 14th May 2025.

Marnhull Surgery

Blackmore Vale Partnership are grateful for the opportunity to respond to recent comments on Facebook regarding our utilisation of Marnhull Surgery and our system of access, SystmConnect.

For some time now, the Partnership have operated Nursing clinics at Marnhull on two days per week due to the operational and financial challenges of operating over multiple rural sites at a time when funding for General Practice has not matched the increasing demand and inflationary pressures.

This provision has been temporarily reduced to one day per week in recent months due to a reduction in nursing staff available, however we hope to return to two days per week very soon after recruiting new staff. We work closely with NHS Dorset to ensure we can use our estates as efficiently as possible whilst ensuring the service is sustainable for the future.

With regards to our triage process and access to appointments, we are pleased to provide further information about this.

Demand for appointments has grown steadily in the last decade, alongside a decline in available GPs and a reduction in real terms funding. The old 'first come first served' system is not sufficient to safely deal with current levels of demand. If we were to still operate such a system, a patient with an urgent clinical need could end up not being seen for days or weeks because appointments are taken by other patients whose needs are less urgent, just because they happened to get through more quickly.

Blackmore Vale Partnership implemented a 'total triage' system in 2022 and NHS England have since made it a contractual requirement for all GP Practices to assess the clinical need for all appointment requests, whether submitted via telephone or online, and then to allocate an appropriate appointment. The only exceptions to this are where the request is for an appointment where no assessment is required, i.e. vaccination and immunisation, or pre-agreed test.

In order to determine the clinical urgency of a request, whether online or via telephone, we ask patients the same questions to provide as much information as possible for a GP to triage the request. By providing this information you are helping us to ensure you get the appointment you need. All requests are triaged confidentially by a GP and we aim to contact patients the same day to book an appointment, except where a request is received later in the afternoon or evening. On average we process most requests within 2 hours.

We are always grateful for constructive feedback from patients about our services and work closely with the Patient Participation Group to reflect and improve, whilst also ensuring that the Practice remains sustainable for the future.

Women's Health

WOMEN'S HEALTH is now firmly on the Dorset map thanks to the launch of a new website.

Contraception, mental health, breast health, menopause, HPV and pelvic health are some of the female-focused topics visitors to the new site can explore.

The website, produced by Dorset Women CIC in conjunction with NHS Dorset, clinicians and the public, raises awareness of local community services and provides useful resources to empower people with an interest in women's health to make informed decisions about women's mental and physical wellbeing.

This is expected to improve access and quality of care – a priority identified by women – and ease pressures on the NHS.

The website is part of a wider programme of women's health activity in Dorset, having been granted part of a £25 million investment earmarked by Government for the development of 'women's health hubs' under the national Women's Health Strategy.

A website awareness-raising campaign coincides with the launch of the site. As part of this, residents will see promotional materials in their local pharmacy, general practice and other locations to help spread the word. Stakeholder events have also been organised.

To access the site visit <https://ourdorset.org.uk/women>

Health Event – Children & Young People

The next in the series of events run by the Practice and the PPG, is on Wednesday May 28th at the Exchange, Sturminster Newton at 15.30 – 17.00. There will be information, advice and support about health issues for children and young people, together with members of the Wellbeing Team on hand to help with digital access.

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MICROSOFT EMAILS, MUM AND DAD SCAMS

CHRIS WALTON
Oak Digital Solutions

I always know if I'm on the right track with my columns when I'm contacted by at least two people asking about the very issue I'm writing about. This is the case with the unexpected single-use code e-mails from Microsoft that seem to be popping up everywhere. These e-mails contain a 6-digit code and really are from Microsoft but scammers are the ones requesting them. This is likely to be what is known as a brute force attack by fraudsters who are attempting to access accounts by trying multiple passwords, sometimes with the help of automated software.

The email is titled 'Your single-use code' and it usually tells you:

'We received your request for a single-use code to use with your Microsoft account.'

It goes on to give you a 6-digit code and a message to only enter the code on an official website or app, not to share it with anyone and a reminder that Microsoft will never ask for it outside an official platform.

These codes can be genuinely requested by Microsoft account holders who need to verify their identity and gain access to their accounts when logging in from a new device or location. If you receive this email and you didn't request the code, it's most likely because someone is attempting to access your account. These attempts can come from anywhere in the world but recently it appears that they are coming from the US, Turkey, Greece, Russia and Brazil. Usually these attempts are unsuccessful, and accounts remain secure, but it's always best to change your password to be on the safe side. Please see my previous articles to ensure that you are using strong passwords.

Mum and Dad Scam

Recently Scammers have been ramping up their use of the 'hi Mum and Dad' or 'friend in need' scam via e-mails, text or WhatsApp. This could be because people are beginning to go on holiday or because other avenues are being closed to them due to increased fraud prevention and awareness.

With this scam they impersonate adult children, friends, or family members, claiming they've lost their phone and urgently need money due to an incident or emergency. The fraudsters are hoping that you will act quickly out of panic without taking steps to confirm if it's legitimate or not. And with AI getting better and better some fraudsters are even sampling and using our loved ones' voices from our social media account videos. A popular one is someone contacting you to say their Mum has had a heart attack and that they're trying to raise funds to enable their sisters to purchase tickets to come home as soon as possible. They ask you to transfer some money or even visit a "Go Fund Me" page to make payment.

Always check by calling the person directly if you receive such a message. Or think ahead and manage your scam risk by setting up a family password or phrase known only to you and your loved ones. If contacted in a crisis, ask for the password or phrase or ask them a question only they can answer like "What article of clothing does Uncle Bernard always end up removing on New Years Eve?"

Text scams, known as 'smishing', are one of the most popular tools for fraudsters.

Any unexpected text messages from numbers you don't recognise should be treated with suspicion and in most cases, ignored.

Especially if

- It asks for your personal details or money.
- It includes a link – as a general rule of thumb, never follow a link from a text message.
- It urges you to take action – whether that's to transfer money to a friend in need or update payment details, you should always treat these requests with caution.

If you receive a scam text, you can report it by forwarding the message to 7726. This reports it to your network provider, who can then investigate the scam.

About Me

I'm Chris Walton, I live in Marnhull and I can help with many of the problems that people experience with personal and home technology. I have nearly 40 years' experience teaching people of all ages and all skill levels to use a wide variety of gadgetry and software both in the workplace and at home.

I provide patient and friendly training carried out at your own pace, in your own home and at your convenience.

You can find out more at www.oakdigitalsolutions.co.uk or on my Oak Digital Solutions Facebook Page.

After each month's column has been published it will be posted to my Oak Digital Solutions Facebook page as well as the blog on my website where you are welcome to comment and ask any questions.

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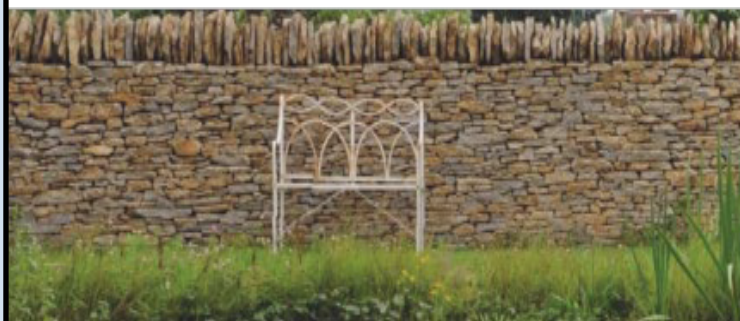
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DORSET MUSEUM WEDDING FAIR

Dorset Museum & Art Gallery is excited to announce that this year's Wedding Fair will be taking place on Sunday 27 April from 11am to 3pm. This free event will be a celebration of all things wedding-related, featuring a diverse array of stallholders, interactive displays and performances that promise to inspire couples planning their big day.

The Wedding Fair will showcase a selective line-up of local vendors offering everything from exquisite floral arrangements and stunning bridal attire to entertainment, catering, and photography services.

Whether you're newly engaged or further down your wedding planning journey, the Wedding Fair at Dorset Museum & Art Gallery is the perfect place to gather ideas and make connections with different suppliers.

Taking bookings for weddings and special events from 2027, Dorset Museum & Art Gallery is a truly unique landmark venue in the heart of Dorset's county town. The Victorian Gallery could not be more striking, with its high ceilings adorned with intricate designs, romantic balconies, genuine Roman mosaic floors and stained-glass rose window - all surrounded by thousands of years of history. Our Events Team will be on hand, eager to help create unforgettable wedding experiences, and you will have the opportunity to envision how the venue could be transformed to suit your style and needs.

"We are so excited to be inviting couples to our Wedding Fair again this year," says Claire Dixon, Executive Director of Dorset Museum & Art Gallery. "This event not only connects couples with quality local vendors but also allows them to experience first-hand the creative possibilities for their special day."

Entry to the Wedding Fair is free and no booking is required. For more information about hiring Dorset Museum & Art Gallery as a venue, please visit our website at dorsetmuseum.org/venue-hire/

DORSET MUSEUM ROMAN TOURS

More dates have been released for our popular Roman Town House Tours and Roman Dorchester Walks. These tours invite participants to step back in time and uncover the rich Roman history of Dorchester, formerly known as Durnovaria.

Roman Dorchester Walks provide an opportunity to explore the remains of a once-thriving Roman town, tracing the line of its ancient defences along the Town Walks as well as visiting lesser-known sites, such as the Roman baths. Led by our experienced guides, participants will learn about daily life during one of history's most fascinating periods.

On a Roman Town House Tour, participants will get the opportunity to explore one of the best examples of a fully exposed Roman urban house in the country. Participants will be taken on a site-visit where they will be granted exclusive access inside the structure to see the mosaics up close.

Both tours begin at Dorset Museum & Art Gallery, starting with a presentation to provide background context and a tour of the People's Dorset Gallery to view some of the Roman artefacts on display.

These tours are an incredible chance for families, history buffs, or anyone interested in exploring their local heritage to discover Dorchester's past.

For more information, please visit the Dorset Museum Website.



Giveaway and Takeaway Day Saturday 17 May 2025

at Marnhull Recreation Ground and around the village
- the 'Re-use' part of 'Reduce Re-use Recycle'!

To register your interest in this event and/or to receive further information

email John Dowsett at dowsettjohn48@gmail.com

or phone (01258) 821534 or 07825 057543

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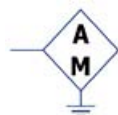
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ROYAL
BRITISH LEGION

May 8th will be the 80th anniversary of VE Day and the Branch will be holding a short service and wreath laying at the memorial at 11am. All are welcome to attend and it would be nice if we could get a good turnout.

Then on Sunday 11th May the Club will be hosting an indoor street party with music by the Bell Street Singers. Anybody can come but if you do please bring a plate of food to go on the table as was the case in 1945. The event will start at 2pm and go on till 7pm. If you fancy getting into the mood for the period you are welcome to put on fancy dress. There is a rumour that Winston Churchill will be there.

Our next jumble sale is on June 7th and we would welcome donations. I will collect if you wish. My contact details are at the bottom of the page.

Plenty of entertainment in May as per below but the highlight is a Freddie Mercury tribute night on Saturday May 31st. Tickets are on sale now priced £10 or £12.50 on the door on the day. It promises to be a tremendous evening.

Lyn fortnightly bingo goes from strength to strength. Eyes down is at 7pm on alternate Mondays and all proceeds go to the Poppy Appeal.

Sad news about both Sturminster and now Gillingham Legions shutting their doors for the last time. This brings the phrase 'use us or lose us' into sharp focus. We are a village facility and holding our own at the moment but we need you to come and support us in our endeavours so please don't take us for granted.

May Entertainment

Sat. 3rd May – The Rebbels

Mon. 5th May – Lyn's Bingo 7pm

Sat 10th May – Superleague darts -no music

Sat. 17th May – Mustang Sally

Mon. 19th May – Lyn's Bingo 7pm

Sat. 24th May – Scandals

Sat. 31st May – Freddie Mercury tribute £10 by ticket

For Branch Business contact Jack Whitehead on 01258 820800

Or whiteheadjack51@gmail.com

Club business contact Tony Junge on 01258 820397



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Marnhull Village Care

A warm welcome to the Village & Support in our Community



Marnhull Village Care have noted the recent discussion about prescription collection after the ending of Marnhull pharmacy's delivery service at the end of March.

We may be able to help - but please note that our aim is to provide transport for people in Marnhull who cannot make alternative arrangements - and that we make a small charge to cover our volunteer drivers' expenses: £2 for a trip within the village, £3 within the wider parish.

If you cannot get to the pharmacy yourself, and have no-one available to pick up your prescription for you, please consider using an online pharmacy with a delivery service, especially for repeat prescriptions. There are several options available

But Marnhull Village Care are here to help if all else fails! You can contact us on 07777 559076 and we will see what we can do.

Marnhull Village Care

A warm welcome to the Village & Support in our Community



Your Village needs YOU



to be a volunteer driver!

You're fully licenced and insured, your car's in good condition, you're a safe driver and willing to spare some time occasionally to help a neighbour get to a doctor's, dentist's or hospital appointment?

We need to hear from you urgently!

Please call 07777 559076 or visit

www.marnhullvillagecare.com

for more information. Thank you!



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HARRIS HOUSE NAMES
TELEPHONE:
07842834439



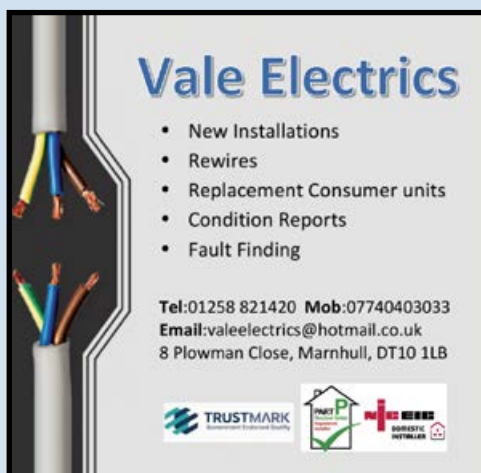
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MARNHULL GREEN TEAMS

Taking the Environment Around Marnhull Seriously



MGT have had a couple of events since the last Messenger; Early April we had a talk from the beaver expert at Dorset Wildlife Trust, an excellent and informative presentation increasing our understanding of beaver biology, behaviour and environmental effects. Over 60 people came and their generosity has meant we were able to pass on the donations received to the DWT beaver project.

We were given a talk by the site manager of the new development on the pond that adjoins the road to the recreation ground; this will collect all surface and run off water, and will have tree planting on

the south side. The pond edge has had sedge and reed bundles installed and there are already a couple of ducks semi resident. The site manager also showed us the bee bricks being used on the site along with house martin nesting boxes and bat hibernation installations. Many thanks.

Reduce and Reuse Thursday 8th May

Our Reduce and Reuse evening will be held at the Village Hall on Thursday 8th May at 7:00 pm and we will have external speakers for this followed by two talks from MGT members Hawkers Recreatives - Textile Repurpose and Redesign and Recycle @ the Hub. No charge and bar available.

Giveaway - Takeaway Day Hidden Treasure Saturday 17th May

Our fourth Giveaway and Takeaway will be on Saturday 17th May. As last year there will be the added attraction of the Marnhull Garden Club plant sale and also refreshments at the Hub in the village hall. See separate notice John Dowsett will be the contact for this event and can be contacted on dowsettjohn48@gmail.com and 07825057543

Disease Resistant Elms Tuesday 20th May

We will have an illustrated talk on Tuesday 20th May on elm trees and the introduction of disease resistant elms, these trees were once a common sight in the Blackmore Vale. A severe strain of Dutch Elm Disease appeared in the 1960s and killed off the almost the entire stock of British mature trees. We look forward to seeing you at these events. The MGT AGM will follow the Elm talk.



PLANT SALE

SATURDAY 17th MAY 10am to 12pm
at Marnhull Village Hall



Perennial, Annual and Bedding Plants
Shrubs, Vegetable and Herbs



Plus COFFEE & CAKE

All proceeds donated to

CANCER RESEARCH UK



Welcome to Marnhull Garden Club's monthly update for May.

In April Ben Turner came to talk to us on the subject of Mediterranean Gardens at home and abroad. Ben brought along a selection of plants and showed us some beautiful photos of the exotic and interesting plants grown in Mediterranean climates. Ben explained that there are 5 mediterranean zones in the World including California, Australia, Chile, South Africa and, of course, Europe. Each area has distinct native plants with some plants being pollinated by different creatures including birds, bats and gerbils which I think surprised us all. Raffle prize proceeds were donated to Weldmar Hospicecare.

Dates to look forward to for members include a garden visit to Little Latch on the 12th May as well as a propagation workshop for members on the 7th June. Additionally there is Marnhull Garden Club's plant sale on 17th May (for Cancer Research UK) and we do hope as many people as possible can come and join us and help raise money for this worthy cause.

It costs only £20 to join for the year or you can come along as a non-member for £3 per meeting. Members enjoy a programme of varied and interesting speakers, discounts at local garden centres, organised trips and the odd social event. With over 100 members this is a particularly good club to join if you are new to the village and want to get to know people. We make an effort to welcome new people and you really don't need any gardening knowledge.

Three gardening tips for May

- 1. Pull out any tree seedlings from borders.** Sycamore, willow and ash typically show up in great numbers now. Trees such as holly, oak and beech emerge later. They can be easily pulled out by hand when young whereas if left they will send down anchoring tap roots in the first year that are harder to get out.
- 2. Check if homemade compost is ready.** If it smells earthy then it's ready to spread onto borders, particularly after rain, which will conserve moisture in roots. Any bits of twiggy prunings can be picked out and added to the next heap as they'll provide slow-rotting carbon and will aerate the heap.
- 3. Plant up a perennial salvia for a patio display that can flower for the rest of the Summer.** Use a loam based potting compost and place the plant in full sun for the best results. Choose Salvia nemorosa or Salvia X sylvestris. With deadheading they will flower on until October.



Women's Institute

VE Day Celebration

Thursday 8th May in Marnhull Village Hall

From 10am to 12 noon

Come and enjoy Homemade Cakes at our Bring & Buy coffee morning & raffle



Donations to go to 'Help for Heroes'



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Progress Report on the Marnhull Neighbourhood Plan

Now that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has completed the Regulation 14 consultation on the initial draft of the Neighbourhood Plan, it is an appropriate point for the Parish Council ("MPC") to provide an update to the village on progress on this very important document and the process moving forwards to ratify it. Given the Neighbourhood Plan's relevance in setting out the future vision for Marnhull, MPC has submitted the detailed results of the consultation to the Planning Inspector dealing with the Tess Square and Butts Close appeal.

Background

You may recall this process started in May 2023 when the MPC invited parishioners to volunteer to participate in a working group to put together a Neighbourhood Plan. The Working Group is predominantly comprised of villagers with participation from Jules Cormack and Mark Turner from the Parish Council. The vision of the Plan, in the face of several large, speculative housing applications is to support the sustainable and sympathetic development of Marnhull by representing local opinion and the needs of the community. The purpose of the Plan is to allow for growth within clearly defined parameters which are designed to reflect local needs and to protect the distinctive character of Marnhull. The Plan will guide future developments to help create the conditions – social, environmental and economic – necessary for the village to evolve and thrive and to be sustainable set out in 13 clearly defined policies. The current draft of the Plan is published at: <https://marnhull-pc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Neighbourhood-Plan/Draft-Neighbourhood-plan/NDP-Reg-14-draft-250206.pdf>

The Working Group was very active during 2023 in creating awareness and building an evidence base through understanding key issues for villagers and attended public events such as Marnfest and the Flower Show to gather feedback. Building this evidence base included running a Parish Survey in late Autumn 2023.

The survey was aimed at households whilst ensuring it was GDPR compliant. The aim of the survey was to ensure residents had a chance to give their views on various matters and provide some data that would provide a reasonable steer on the issues and aspirations of the community. This evidence subsequently would be tested further through the consultation on the draft Plan. Marnhull has c. 950 households and c 2000 residents, and we had a total of 503 responses either on-line or via paper copies. The personal data provided indicated that 30 households returned 2 forms, so we had responses from c. 50% of all households. This level of feedback is a good sample size on which to progress the Plan and demonstrated a good level of engagement with the community.

In terms of the process undertaken with the raw data, the 503 responses were checked for obvious rogue responses – in total four entries were initially identified as spoof entries and deleted from the results. Following further robust checks by our independent planning consultant, a further rogue entry was identified, and therefore the resulting data included in the Neighbourhood Plan appendices is based on 498 responses. As an example, the rogue entries included one household of 9 children under the age of 4 and no other occupants, with a postcode based in Stallbridge.

The nature of the questions in the survey was based upon similar questions used in other Neighbourhood Plans. There were areas where, in hindsight, the form design could have been improved to reduce the risk of data being entered incorrectly, but due to the format of the survey (available both online and in paper format) it was not possible to prevent this from happening. This has not invalidated the data, and such potential for error has been considered. For example, there were some errors with the entries in the age ranges, where the actual age of the occupant had been entered (rather than the number of people in that category – ie a household of one with 71 people in the 65 – 79 year age bracket). This type of error could readily be checked and corrected, and the data

published in the Neighbourhood Plan has done this. The published raw data in response to this question (Q6) is therefore not accurate as it does not reflect this correction. Another example was in the questions intended to deal with housing needs, where less than 25% of those responding indicated that they would be looking to move home in the next 5 – 10 years, but a higher proportion of respondents went on to indicate where they might move to and the type of house that would meet their needs. The same issue was repeated in the question about need for employment premises. In these cases, only the broader / high level results have been fed into the thinking on the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has referred to the survey results in shaping the general direction of the Plan but has not treated it as a 100% statistically robust survey – simply put, it is not a Census. Even though every household received the survey, and it was advertised widely, people could choose to respond or not. As with many democratic processes (such as the 2024 General Election) older people are more likely to respond to such surveys than younger cohorts and this was borne out in the results. Also, the survey was not the only data source used and considered, with (for example) the housing numbers being based on data related to housing targets set through national policy and considering the local plan strategy and evidence of affordable housing need from Dorset Council's affordable housing register. Consideration was also given to Census data from 2021 and of course to feedback from prior evidence gathering.

Plan pre-submission Consultation.

The draft Plan was then prepared and issued for Consultation early in 2025. The Consultation period ended on March 31st. Again, the Working Party was keen to ensure the widest participation in the process and held two "walk-in" information events on 22nd February and 14th March as well as publicising the consultation widely on social media and in the Marnhull Messenger. In addition, copies of the draft Plan, and details of how to respond, were placed at all village shops, pubs, schools and churches as well as at the Village Hall.

MPC has been very encouraged by the volume of feedback to the consultation. Key statutory consultees - Natural England, National Highways, Environment Agency, Historic England – have all responded positively. Dorset Council has provided a detailed response that is broadly supportive but suggesting some minor changes which will need to be considered. In addition, and perhaps more importantly, we have had 89 responses from individual villagers or households. The vast majority were extremely supportive of the 13 policies set out in the draft Plan. All the policies had 88% + of respondents agreeing with them and overall, only 2 respondents felt the draft required major changes. We have also received a detailed response made on behalf of a landowner in the parish.

The feedback from the consultation been submitted to the Tess Square and Butts Close appeal inquiry, and can be found as CD12.006 here: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/land-west-of-church-hill-and-land-off-butts-close-and-schoolhouse-lane-marnhull-public-inquiry-core-documents>.

Next Steps

The Working Party will now consider the responses to the Consultation working in conjunction with the independent consultant and will make amendments of the draft plan to reflect the feedback received, as well as considering the feedback from the separate consultation with landowners on designating their land as local green space. The draft will then be taken to MPC for approval before being submitted to Dorset Council which is responsible to organising its independent examination and giving people a further opportunity to make comments. If any changes are recommended by the appointed Examiner, they will then be made and finally the Plan will be taken to the village for a referendum. We hope that this will happen late in 2025 or early in 2026. Should a majority of those voting in the referendum support the Plan, then it will then be formally adopted and used by Dorset Council in determining planning applications.

Summary and Thanks

The Working Group has consulted widely to date on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. We have built a robust evidence base that has informed the draft Plan and the output from the consultation on this has indicated that the Plan meets with the broad approval of the parish. The Group has been guided by an independent consultant to ensure the process is compliant with legislation and has also received very positive feedback from statutory bodies.

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MPC would like to express its thanks to everyone who has responded to the consultation, and to the villagers participating in the Working Group. We look forward to working through the next steps and trust that the village will ratify the final Plan at the referendum.

Mark Turner and Steve Winder, Marnhull Parish Council April 2025



ST GREGORY'S CHURCH

Did you know there is a prayer tree in St Gregory's Church?

Christian prayer can simply be defined as standing before God-opening our minds and hearts to Him. We believe we can be completely open with God- if we are worried, sad or joyful...and no matter is too big or too small... There are so many different ways to pray and one of them is called intercession- when we pray for others, trusting that God knows the details and hears our prayers for others.

So we have a prayer tree next to the Hussey Chapel -which itself has been a place of Christian prayer for over 800 years!

Today the prayer tree can be used by anyone who comes in- whether locals or visitors, those of faith or none!

Simply write the name of the person/people on a leaf, place on the tree and we will gladly and regularly pray for them each week, for at least a month.

Many people find it helpful to know their concerns are in a safe place - the prayer tree gently holds them before God as we continue our daily lives.

For more information or a confidential prayer request please contact

Revd Gaenor 01258 821605 / revdgaenor@proton.me

Church is open daily from 9am-4.30pm

WEEKLY SERVICES

Every Sunday: 8am and 10am services

Every Wednesday: 9am Morning Prayer for the parish

Please contact one of us or use our prayer tree if you would like us to pray for someone.

EVENTS AND SERVICES IN MAY

Sun 4th Easter 3

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)

10am Parish Communion- with coffee afterwards

Weds 7th

11am Monthly Holy Communion

Thurs 8th

11am RBL VE 80 Service at the War Memorial

Fri 9th

12pm Village Prayer at Marnhull Methodist Church.

Sun 11th Easter 4

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)

10am Parish Communion- with coffee afterwards

Sun 18th Easter 5

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)

10am All Age Service- with coffee afterwards

Tues 20th

12pm Organ recital by Stephen Binnington 3/3. Donations welcome for church funds.

Sun 25th Rogation Sunday

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)

10am Parish Communion- with coffee afterwards

Thurs 29th Ascension Day

11am Holy Communion

Sat 31st

9-11am Monthly church working party- with refreshments

If you would like to receive the weekly Pew News via email please contact Revd Gaenor.

CONTACT US

Rector Revd Gaenor Hockey

01258 821605 revdgaenor@proton.me

Part time: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday

Licensed Lay Minister Judith Male

07852780517 judith.stgregs@gmail.com

Churchwarden Barrie Jenks

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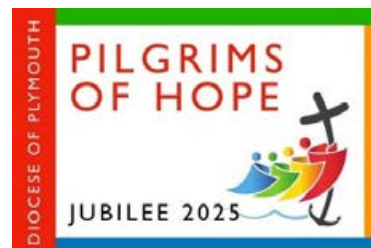
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OUR LADY'S CHURCH



2025 The Jubilee Year of HOPE

In this Jubilee Year - a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The Jubilee Year will be a year of hope for our world suffering the impacts of

war, and our climate crisis. It is a time for a new beginning, rooted in the transformative power of God's Kingdom.

We are called to embrace hope and renewal through service and fraternity, particularly towards the least, and through responsibility for our "common home" the Earth "so abused and wounded." The six social action themes are: care for creation, food poverty, modern slavery, managing debt, forgiveness, rest.

Our Diocese invites pilgrims to visit four historically and spiritually significant churches in Cornwall, Devon, and Dorset:

- St Mary & St Boniface, Cathedral Church of Plymouth
- St Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston
- Holy Trinity, Dorchester
- The National Shrine of St Boniface in Crediton

"We invite Catholics and non-Catholics alike to make a pilgrimage to these four churches. The Jubilee Year is a time to reestablish our relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

"May this Jubilee Year be for you a time of reflection, of new insight, and of a deepening of your relationship with the Lord. May our love be a witness to those who may feel lost or hopeless, and may it encourage them on their pilgrimage to find the way, the truth and the life."

THE METHODIST CHURCH

I had a very senior moment and forgot to submit copy to the Marnhull Messenger in time for April's edition. No one mentioned it though so, unless people were just being kind, it wasn't much missed! Anyway, I'll press on with my report for May.

ON 9TH MAY AT 12.00 VILLAGE PRAYER will be held in the Methodist Church. This is a Marnhull Churches Together initiative and aims to provide a short, quiet time for reflection and prayer. Anyone can come along and the gathering lasts for about half an hour.

ON SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2-4pm Rebecca, a member of the Girls' Brigade, is holding a fundraising event in the Methodist Church Hall. She is representing England and Wales at the Girls' Brigade Worldwide Conference which is being held in New Zealand next year – quite an honour but also quite an expensive undertaking, hence the fundraising. On 17th there will be bric a brac, general stalls and a cake stall.

*Tables are available to sell your unwanted items at £10.00 each. Please contact Rebecca on:

07415 679 014 to book a table. If you can support this event Rebecca will be very grateful.

GIRLS' BRIGADE - All girls are welcome to come to the Girls' Brigade and have a good time learning skills and enjoying supervised activities. They meet every Wednesday evening between 18.15 and 19.30 in the Methodist Church Hall. Making friends and working towards earning their badges makes for a lot of fun. Just contact Rachael on 0777 189 7262 for details.

Gillian

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever." Psalm 118 v 29

BISHOPS LETTER

Sudan and South Sudan Partnership – A time of crisis

We have been fortunate to celebrate a peaceful Easter in our land, we find Sudan and South Sudan in probably the most desperate state in more than 25 years of our half century of partnership. This Spring marks the second anniversary of the conflict in Sudan, and the BBC has reported that fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has claimed more than 150,000 lives. The UN calls it the world's largest humanitarian crisis in which some 12 million people have been forced to flee their homes, creating new crises particularly in neighbouring Chad and South Sudan.

As the conflict intensified, Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo, his family and staff were forced to flee and with other supporters we helped him re-establish the Episcopal Church HQ in Port Sudan on the Red Sea coast. More recently the SAF has recaptured most of Khartoum including the symbolically important Presidential Palace. The RSF is now concentrated in El-Fasher in the Darfur region in the north and west of Sudan. It has been responsible for the most appalling atrocities yet denies it is ethnic cleansing but "tribal conflict". Efforts are being considered for the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate. The UK Government's recent decision to reduce the Overseas Development Aid budget is very disappointing.

In South Sudan, violence has returned too. Many people worry that Juba may be consumed by violence again, most recently triggered by President Salvar Kiir arresting the First Vice-President Riek Machar. The South Sudan Council of Churches has been urging all parties to seek peace and not conflict. "Faith before tribe" should be the guiding principle but that is easily said but much harder to practice. How do we do that ourselves?

Our partnership with the Sudans is founded on prayer and fellowship so please continue to hold the people of the Sudans in your prayers.

One way in which you can offer practical help is by supporting the Sudan Medical Link Fete, held in my garden on Sunday 15th June at 2pm. All are welcome as we raise much needed funds for medical aid for families in South Sudan.

+Stephen, Bishop of Salisbury



ST GREGORY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our Spiritual Garden & forest area growing beds have had a revamp, led by Michelle Cook-Paine (Hedgehogs class teacher) & Judith Male our lovely weekly reading volunteer. They were assisted by members of the Marnhull Organic Gardens team. Thank you for their time and resources (a whole winter's worth of compost in one instance!) and to Rosie Gall for her horse manure. It is looking ready for the warmer months once again.

If you would like to help please contact the school office – office@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk 01258 820206



As part of our lead up to Easter we have taken a trip to St Gregory's church to experience the journey Jesus took during holy week. Rev'd Gaenor led us in some quiet reflective activities around the church. The children especially the Reception children were very calm and reflective when moving around each station.

We have had visits from Super Sian and Merck to lead sessions as part of our Science Week activities. Super Sian started our day with a bang as she presented a whole school assembly, demonstrating how acid liquids turn base liquids different shades of pink depending of their ph levels. We also saw giant smoke rings floating across the hall and paper completely disappearing when set alight. What really got the children really excited was the leaf blower that blew toilet roll across the hall! Badgers then enjoyed a workshop about fizzy liquids exploding and Hedgehogs got to make potions! Foxes enjoyed a chemistry potion making session with the outreach team from Merck. The children enjoyed dressing as scientists with their own lab coat, gloves and goggles!

We are looking forward to the return of Forest School sessions. I am a big believer in being outside and learning outdoors and we have such amazing grounds here at St Gregory's!

Starting after Easter, Claire from Forest Yogi minds will be joining us every Thursday mornings.



Claire is also planning on running a Forest School holiday club here at St Gregory's for us during the summer holiday

HEDGEHOGS CLASS have been busy enjoying the Spring weather and in our enquiry led learning we have been searching for signs of Spring as part of our investigation as to how our school changes throughout the year. We enjoyed sketching with pastels and pencils to capture how one tree in our school grounds has changed throughout the seasons. We also went on a Spring walk around the school grounds using the Ipads to picture the evidence resulting in the discovery of lots of new growth and buds on plants, trees and bushes. As part of our enquiry 'Who helps who' we have been exploring local community helpers and were fortunate enough to have a visit from our local fire station this week to conclude our learning. The fire crew gave us a tour of the fire engine and explained about all the different types of equipment and what they were used for. We even got to use the hoses at the end of the visit which was a great treat for us all!



BADGERS CLASS have enjoyed a term very much focused on being healthy. We have learnt about our muscles and skeleton and the importance of a healthy, balanced diet with the importance of fruit and vegetables in

our diet. Our focus then moved on to food in art; we looked at a famous artist who used fruit as their inspiration.

In Maths we have learnt lots about units of measure. We have also done great work with mass and capacity and I am sure they would be great with any cooking or baking requiring weighing or measuring out liquids

FOXES CLASS have been historians recently, diving into the world of the Romans and answering their enquiry question "Who is trading with Whom?" The children have been fascinated by exploring how we know the Romans traded in Britain and have collated evidence of Roman hoards found locally by plotting them on a map using grid references. They have studied primary and secondary sources of evidence and created a timeline of currency used in the UK. Next, they plan to create their own currency and trade goods in the classroom - creating a market place, just like the Romans would have done over two thousand years ago!



**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

End of Spring Term!



What a busy term we have had! The children have continued to be engaged in their learning and enjoyed finding out about new topics ranging from Travel in the past, British History Heroes to the Shang Dynasty in History and in Geography finding out about countries like China and Norway and looking at why settlements develop. It has been great to see the children's enthusiasm for learning both in class and when presenting their work in Celebration Assembly. We have had

special events days such as World Book Day and Red Nose Day, where the children and staff wholeheartedly throw themselves into the spirit of the day! It was a lovely way to end the term with our Easter Tea Party, organised by our fantastic PTFA.

Easter Eggs

We want to say a HUGE THANK YOU to the Crown Inn who donated 80 eggs using their community chest fund and were so happy to help out the school now and in the future. Dikes & Son in Stalbridge who were able to donate 10 eggs, which was an amazing gesture. We would also like to thank Atul at Robin Hill Stores in Marnhull, who donated 96 cream eggs to the school, this again was much appreciated as we could use them as prizes for small activities in class.

St Mary's Explorers Preschool is proudly celebrating its 10th anniversary — a decade of providing a joyful, exciting start to children's educational journeys.



Situated in the heart of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Marnhull and surrounded by beautiful countryside, the preschool offers a warm and welcoming environment where children develop a love of nature and outdoor learning. Supported by experienced staff, it is a place where young children develop their confidence and a love for learning.

The preschool's carefully designed curriculum puts the child at the centre of everything. With a strong focus on building independence, vocabulary, and key skills. Staff ensure each learning experience supports children's natural curiosity and desire to learn.

Ofsted has praised the preschool for helping children get off to a good start, with staff who model language effectively and understand child development deeply. Supporting communication, creativity, and emotional growth.

Ellie Myatt, EYFS Lead Teacher, shared: "Looking back at the children we've had the privilege to teach, we feel truly blessed to have been the first step on their learning journey. It's been an honour to nurture each child and give them the very best start in education."

To mark this exciting milestone, the Early Years team and children are looking forward to celebrating with a garden party — complete with music, games, and, of course, cake!

As the preschool celebrates this remarkable ten-year journey, its vision remains as strong as ever: to ensure that every child leaves St Mary's Explorers ready for the next stage of their education — equipped with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to thrive.

St Mary's Explorers is open from 8:45am – 3:15pm every weekday 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. We still have places available for September. If you would like to come and visit the school to see what we can offer your child, contact the school office office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk 01258 820417 or just pop in! (Early Education Funding vouchers accepted and 30hrs funding available).



TUESDAYS AT TWELVE

On Tuesday 20th May at 12 noon, Stephen Binnington will present a 30-minute varied programme of organ music in St. Gregory's Church in aid of church funds.

The music includes a magnificent Sonata by Mendelssohn and music by Pachelbel, Handel, Guy Eldridge and Ann Burgess.

It's the final concert in the series.

NEWS FROM TRADING STANDARDS

Become a Trading Standards volunteer

Do you have spare time, and would you like to help others stay safe from scams and similar types of fraud? If so, we're looking for people in the Dorset Council area who would like to help us promote the national Friends Against Scams scheme by becoming 'Scamchampions' and encouraging others to become 'Friends'.

Today, more than 1 in every 100 people living in Dorset are a Friend with Friends Against Scams.

Friends learn how to spot the signs of a scam and can then use that learning to help other people. By having simple everyday conversations Friends can help to keep others safe, whether family, friends, work colleagues, in fact anyone a Friend might meet. Friends also know where to report a scam and where to go to get help.

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

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

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

We are always happy to hear from people who would like to talk about what they can offer to a volunteering role. We are led by you in terms of your skills and how much you'd like to be involved. To find out more about our Trading Standards volunteering opportunities, please get in touch with us at tradingstandards@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

everything you need to know about the Show and how to enter. The Show (formerly known as the Marnhull Flower Show) is on Saturday 12th July in the Village Hall and Recreation Ground.

We have 130 classes, covering flowers, fruit, vegetables, cookery and home made beverages. For those of you who enjoy crafting, there's a handicraft and hobbies section and you can also enter your art work and your photographs. There really is a class for everyone, including novice classes for those who've never entered before.

There are also classes for children in cookery, gardening and arts and skills, split into three age groups: Under 5s, 5-8 and 9-12 years. The winner of each class will receive an ice cream voucher to spend at the Spar in New Street and there are also best in show prizes, donated by the Show Sponsor The Crown at Marnhull.

New this year is the Posties' Pick. Our lovely Marnhull Posties have agreed to choose their favourite front garden in the village. There's no need to enter, just make sure your garden is looking its best in the run up to Show day. The Flowerpot People were so popular last year, that we've brought them back in 2025 and we're hoping for a lovely display again across the Village.

Our chosen Charity this year is the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance who will also have a stall at the Show. They have very kindly donated a trip to Henstridge to see the ambulance and meet the crew as the prize for the Charity Class. To win why not enter the 'make a helicopter out of anything' class? You can be as creative as you like!

We're hoping that there will be a bumper number of entries this year. We know that it can be daunting if you've never entered before, but why not have a bit of fun and have a go? You can follow us on Facebook 'Marnhull Village Show' for more information or email us at marnhullvillageshow@gmail.com if you have any questions. Whatever you grow, make, bake or take, there's definitely a class for you.

**MARNHULL BRITISH LEGION
V E DAY
Anniversary Celebration**



**80 YEARS
SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2-7pm
MUSIC
BELL STREET SINGERS
PLEASE BRING A PLATE OF FOOD
DRESS FOR THE PERIOD 1940'S**

Marnhull Village Show
Flowers and so much more

The Marnhull Village Show Schedule is now available! You can find it at the Spar on New Street, Robin Hill Stores and The Crown, as well the Village Hall, the Royal British Legion and across the village. In it you'll find

Marnhull Village Show Schedule of Classes



**Saturday 12th July 2025
Marnhull Village Hall and
Recreation Ground**

Sponsored by The Crown at Marnhull





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It feels great to be part of an active community, the good news is that thanks to members stepping forward u3a Blackmore Vale will not close, Hurrah!

Today the two largest world economies U.S.A and China are in "Who will blink first mode" but maybe one will have by the time this goes to print. Dealing with the one furthest way from the UK, China, David Grierson in his talk will expound on his exploits while living and working there for seven years.

Henstridge Village Hall BA8 0QB Tuesday 6th May from 2.15pm for refreshments, see you there.



**HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL
BA8 0QB**

Tuesday May 6th

Doors open 2.15pm, Speaker 3pm

**SPEAKER David Grierson
Asian Adventures but
mainly in China.**



Photo - raimond-klavins-JqT2Wp550Dk-unsplash (1)

Members £2.00 Visitors £3.00 Includes refreshments.

For more information call 07484104324

or visit our website www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk.

MARNHULL PLAYERS PANTO

Our AGM on the 20th March went very well and our new committee is now in place and are working together to get started on next year's panto. Hopefully in next month's Messenger I can share with what panto has been chosen. We are also confirming cast ready for the script to be written to fit the size we have so please let us know if you would like to apart of the next one.

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

Thanks for another wonderful Year

The committee and Cast

MARNHULL WILL NOT BE ON THE CR4

Dorset District Council have decided to cut-out Marnhull from its CR4 Blandford - Yeovil -Blandford route from April 20th.

This was only announced on April the 7th. Very short notice for all of the passengers that rely on this service.

Apparently, this is part of their plan to streamline the service. Leaving the people of Marnhull who don't drive stranded.

There are no notices at the bus stop to warn people. Which is unacceptable as not all residents will have access to the website.

MARNHULL MUSIC SOCIETY

The Ladies' Choice programme, presented by Hilary Parker, was an interesting mix of genres, reflecting the personal tastes of our members. It opened in florid style with Pavarotti singing "Cielo e mar" by Ponchielli then moved on to the very precise musical-box feel of Haydn's Military Symphony.

Several vocal items followed: the strange soaring, airy and oddly optimistic speech music from Janacek's "Jenufa" contrasted with the husky tremolo of Edith Piaf. We had Sarah Brightman and Andrea Bocelli duetting in "Time to say Goodbye" and later the smoky tones of Nina Simone. The first half ended with the vivacious finale of Prokofiev's "Classical" symphony.

After coffee we heard Boyce's symphony No. 1, the epitome of neat, sensible, tuneful Baroque and that was followed by the romantic sounds of the ballet from Gounod's "Faust".

Obviously our lady members enjoy the human voice and we had Jonas Kaufman singing an aria from "Tosca" and Jacques Brel breaking our hearts Gallic fashion with "Ne me quitte pas." The evening ended with the plaintive "Solveig's Song" from Grieg's Peer Gynt.

Do you know just how much musical talent we have right here in the village? The Marnhull Music Society plans to tap into some of that hidden treasure in a series of "café" evenings with wine and live music in a relaxed atmosphere. Visitors are especially welcome, so watch out for further information. The first of these Montmartre events is scheduled for May.

MUSIC-PLUS A NEW MUSICAL EVENT

MONDAY 19 MAY

Marnhull Village Hall

doors open 6.45pm for 7.15 start

A VIBRANT MIX of Live Music and Recorded Music

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A Three piece Band and Singer who captivate
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£3 non-members, refreshments included. Wine Bar

No tickets – turn up and be welcomed

Presented by Marnhull Music Society

More information: Ring/text 01258 821534 07825 057543

REPRESENTATIVE FROM MARNHULL AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

In March 2026 I will be travelling to the Cook Islands in the South Pacific, north east of New Zealand, as part of the Girls' Brigade (GB) England and Wales team at their international conference.

The conference will be attended by GB members from all over the world where we can share experiences, ideas and help shape the Girls' Brigade

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and those we serve moving forward. I really do believe that the Girls' Brigade has a positive effect in young people's lives.

Having grown up in the village and in Marnhull's Girls' Brigade, I have been fortunate enough to see Girls' Brigade at a local and later at national view, and now an international one. Girls' Brigade really has changed and shaped my life. I am excited for this experience and hope to share it as much as I can with my Girls' Brigade team here in Marnhull and others.

I am fundraising my way to the conference, aiming to raise £5000, and would be incredibly grateful for any support that you can give. Towards this end, I am organising a Craft Fair, 2-4pm in the Methodist Hall on 17th May to which you are warmly invited.

Rebecca Clements



CRAFT FAIR

17TH MAY 2025
MARNHULL METHODIST CHURCH HALL
2PM-4PM



If you would like a table, please contact Rebecca on
07415679014

MAP - FILM AND NIBBLES EVENT

Medical Aid for Palestinians

Film: The Present

Thursday June 5th 7.30pm Marnhull Village Hall

This is a free event that includes light bites, wine and soft drinks. Donations to help the work of the charity Medical Aid for Palestinians are very welcome.

The Present is a short but moving film which has won a BAFTA Film award.



CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

ACROSS 1. Folsom 4. Chain 6. Sol 7. Scissors 8. Dean
11. Avian 13. Bloc 15. Abdomen 16. Ceilidh 17. Brie
19. Mortif 21. York 24. Martello 25. Alp 26. Conch
27. Disbar
Down 1. Flora 2. Sacramento 3. Masai 4. Crown 5. Abseil
6. Stud 9. Ember 10. Noose 12. Angel Falls 13. Balm 14. Order
18. Iceman 19. March 20. Tread 22. Oscar 23. Kelp

Tickets are available from 22nd May at Robin Hill Stores, Spar shop, and the Saturday morning Hub session

Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Although admission is free, please get your ticket so that we can plan for the numbers attending.

For any further information please contact: sheila@porthkea.myzen.co.uk

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

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The heart of the community

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

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THE FUTURE OF MARNHULL



Thank you for your support of our campaign. Some have said that they already feel much safer sharing their opinions on village matters and open debate seems to be more supported.

As promised, we published information on our website last month that addressed the issues with the 2023 survey. We were pleased to see the Parish Council acknowledge some of our concerns. We continue to urge them to commission an independent and impartial study to power the Neighbourhood Plan. In the meantime we will continue to run our survey. Out of respect for the planning inquiry, we have suspended our marketing for April, but will continue once the outcome is known.

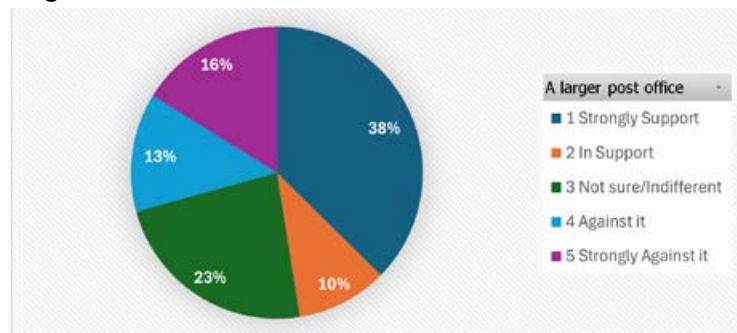
We would like to congratulate both the Crocker family and the Parish Council team for how well they both handled themselves during the inquiry week. They both presented very well. We'd like to thank villagers that spoke at the inquiry, both for and against. It is very clear that you all care deeply about the village.

We would like to share the views about Tess Square of those that have to date completed the survey. Thank you for giving up your time to do

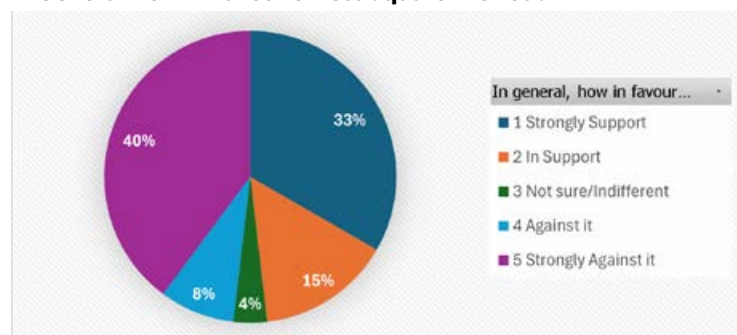
this. Until the Parish Council agree to organise an impartial study, we will continue to see the opinions of the villagers. Should Crocker be successful, it will hopefully shape his plans. Should the Parish Council be successful, we hope that it will show them what the village does want to see.

Either way, we hope that the village can begin to share their opinions publicly without fear of repercussions.

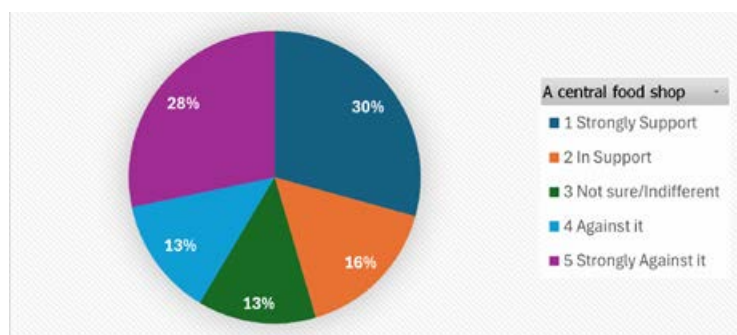
Larger Post Office



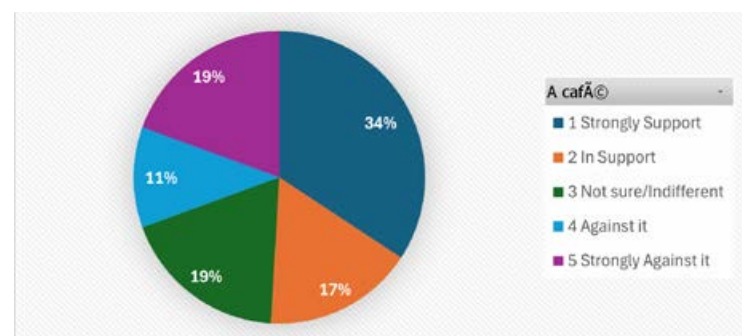
In General How In Favour of Tess Square Are You?



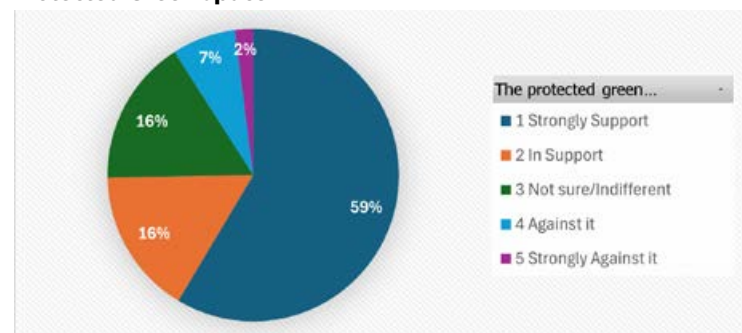
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From Gott's Corner to Tinsel Town

The Story of one Sturminster Newton schoolmaster's family



Talk by Margot Choo

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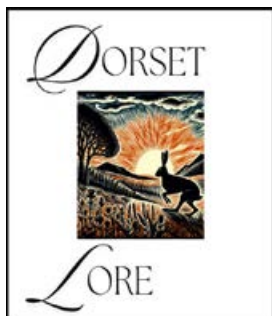
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DORSETLORE



OAK APPLE DAY!

CHRIS WALTON

Oak Digital Solutions

Welcome to Dorset Lore, a monthly column featuring the rich heritage of folklore, tradition, ghost stories (occasional recipes) and legends of the county of Dorset. This month we celebrate Oak Apple Day.

Oak Apple, Royal Oak, Oak and Nettle Day or Restoration day is celebrated on 29th May and is the anniversary of the Restoration of Charles II in 1660.

Sprigs of oak leaves were worn to commemorate the occasion after the Battle of Worcester in September 1651, when Charles II escaped the Roundhead army by hiding in an oak tree near Boscobel House. Anyone who did not wear a sprig of oak risked being hit with eggs or thrashed with nettles. In Sussex, those not wearing oak could be pinched, giving rise to the unofficial name "Pinch-bum Day"; similarly, it was known as "Bumping Day" in Essex.

In Upton Grey, Hampshire, after the church bells were rung at 6am, the bell-ringers would place a large branch of oak over the church porch and another over the lychgate. Smaller branches were positioned in the gateway of every house to ensure good luck for the rest of the year.

William Barnes (known as The Dorset Poet) recalled that Thomas Hardy had told him that the day was still called "Sic-sac-day" by the peasantry; but that he had no idea what the words meant.

Philip H. Gosse wrote in 1889:

"The 29th May, Oak Apple Day, was called 'Shicsack day' when all loyal urchins were expected to display a bit of oak in their hats or caps. A mere twig of oak-leaves was sufficient, but if an oak-apple was attached it was better; while those who wished to be altogether 'the cheese' wore leaves or apples on which a fragment of gold leaf was gummed. There was a considerable demand for gold leaf just before the day at the stationers' shops."

Natural Historian Richard Jefferies wrote in 1902:

"In May the ploughboys still remember King Charles, and on what they call 'shick-shack-day' search for oak apples and the young leaves of the oak to place with a spray of ash in their hats or button-holes. The ash spray must have even leaves, and an odd number is not correct. To wear these green emblems was thought imperative even within the last twenty years, and scarcely a labourer could be seen without them. The elder men would tell you, as if it had been a great calamity, that they could recollect a year when the spring was so backward that not an oak-leaf or an oak-apple could be found by the most careful search for the purpose. The custom has fallen into disuse lately; the carters, however, still attach the ash and oak leaves to the heads of their horses on this particular day."

Broadwindsor in Dorset will be holding several Oak Apple Day events this year including a banquet in the local pub. Charles II stayed a night in Broadwindsor during his six-week flight from the Battle of Worcester.

I have already gathered lots of folklore specific to Marnhull and surrounding villages and would be very interested to hear what

stories locals recall, what their sources are, and what variations there are of the stories I have already researched.

You can now follow and message Dorset Lore on Facebook (just search for Dorset Lore) and you can email me at dorsetlore@gmail.com

FOR ALL YOUR LOCAL LORE

Dorset Lore - On Facebook

Email: dorsetlore@gmail.com

Help us commemorate Victory in Europe Day



Thursday, May 8th 2025

Including a quiz, entertainment & songs, plus a talk by retired Colonel James Porter

Child Okeford Village Hall

7 pm for 7.30 pm

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(from March 6th to Dec 11th)

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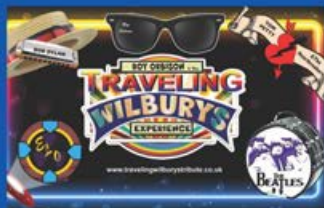
Starts at 7pm -10pm

Open to everyone



Royal British Legion Marnhull

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MARNHULL TENNIS CLUB

MARNHULL
TENNIS CLUB

COURT IS IN SESSION

The 2025/2026 season has just begun and promises to be more fun than ever before. We've got everything from Wimbledon teas and tennis-flavoured pub quizzes to inter-club leagues and friendly tournaments planned for the year. With the new floodlights up and running, we're looking forward to keeping the action going all through the year.

WHAT'S GOING ON FOR ADULTS?

After a great competition season last summer, we have entered three teams in the local Shaftesbury League this year. We have also introduced a club box league for more light-hearted match play, while entry is now open for the annual summer singles and doubles tournament.

WHAT'S GOING ON FOR JUNIORS?

Our weekly after-school tennis sessions for junior members are already up and running, with children from 5 to 18 practising basic tennis skills through fun drills and games. The summer will also see the return of our junior tournament and inter-club matches.

HOW MUCH DOES MEMBERSHIP COST?

The Club offer a range of annual memberships for as little as £66 a year for adults, with discounts for seniors, juniors and students, as well as packages for families. Once you've joined, you'll be able to book courts for free, attend weekly social tennis sessions and take part in fun club activities.

PAY & PLAY

Even if you're not a member, you can still play on the courts for £8 per hour. Just contact Chris Gregory on c.j.gregory@outlook.com or Margaret Hunt on margaret.hunt2208@gmail.com to book your court.



MARNHULL CRAFT CLUB



Easter came early to the Marnhull Craft Club this year. As the last workshop which Sweet Liberty Belle ran for us was so popular, we asked her to come back and show us how to make a 3D felted Rabbit in time for Easter. Over 25 people joined us and between us we produced a whole colony of rabbits! Although we all started with the same template and materials, our rabbits all looked very different – some were rounder than others, some were fluffier and there were some very impressive tails. There was a lot of very studious concentration, partly in crafting the rabbit, but also to avoid too many injuries to fingers from the very sharp needles. Sweet Liberty Belle is based in Langport, Somerset and uses wool sourced from Wales for her work and we very much enjoyed learning the felting techniques from her. She also runs workshops in her studio and online. You can find more information at www.sweetlibertybelle.com.

Marnhull Craft Club meets on the first Thursday of every month at 10am in the Methodist Church Hall. We have a varied programme which includes workshops, demonstrations from our members and time to work on your own crafting project. It's a very informal group and everyone is welcome to join us. Our next meeting is on Thursday 1st May where we will be finding out how to make a Square-in-a-Square patchwork block.

MARNHULL ENTERTAINS



When Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with leading one of the world's most secretive and ancient events, selecting a new Pope, he finds himself at the centre of a web of conspiracies and intrigue that could shake the very foundation of the Catholic Church.

Marnhull Village Hall

Tuesday 27 May

at 7.30pm

Doors open 7.00pm

Tickets: £5.00

Available from:

Robin Hill Stores: 01258 820959 or Marnhull Stores: 01258 820116



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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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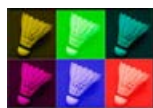
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BADMINTON FOR BEGINNERS**Monday Club Social Night:** 8–10pm (except bank holidays)

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Adults	£4.50
Family (up to 2 adults & 2 children)	£7.00
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**MARNHULL LUNCH CLUB**

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

Main Course, Dessert and Tea or Coffee £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

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

More information from Sue Piper - 07787299227

MARNHULL BRIDGE CLUB

Meets in the Methodist Hall every Tuesday to play Chicago 1.30 winter (GMT) 2 pm summer (BST)

New Players always welcome.

Call 01258 820036 for information

FRENCH & SPANISH CONVERSATION

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

For more information contact Ros Eveleigh on 821049.

MARNHULL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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

We look forward to seeing new and old members

President: Nicola Denham - 01258 821343

BLACKMORE VALE ART GROUP

The group meets monthly on the second Friday at 10:30am in the Village Hall.

All styles and levels of experience are welcomed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Yvonne 820247 or mikyon@aol.com



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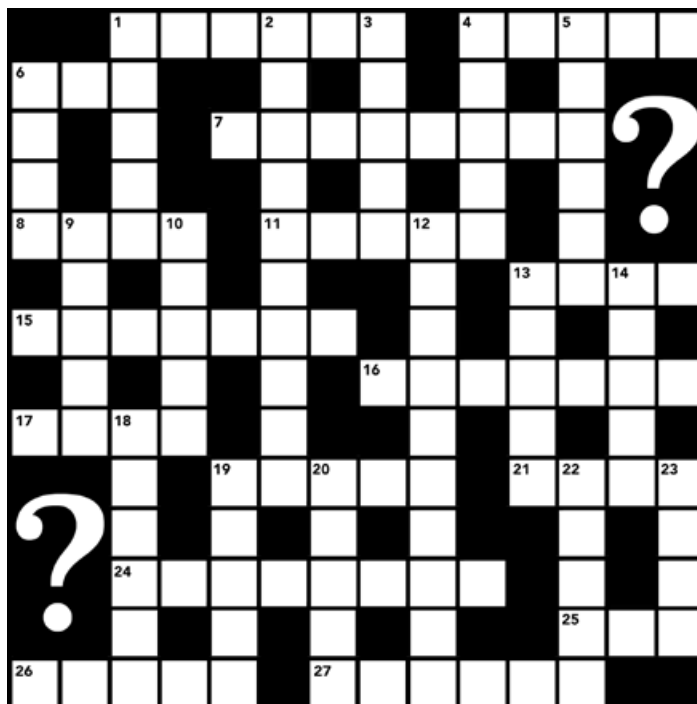
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ACROSS

- 1) Californian City with a prison made famous in a song by Johnny Cash. (6)
 4) Imperial measurement equal to 22 yards. (5)
 6) Roman God of the sun. (3)
 7) Instruments used for cutting paper or cloth. (8)
 8) The head of a chapter of a cathedral. (4)
 11) Relating to birds. (5)
 13) Group of countries or political parties that have formed an alliance. (4)
 15) Social event with Scottish or Irish folk music. (7)
 16) Of rock having solidified from lava. (7)
 17) Kind of soft, mild, creamy cheese. (4)
 19) A single or recurring image forming a design. (5)
 21) Seat of the second highest office of the Church of England. (4)
 24) One of the numerous small circular forts erected along the coast during the Napoleonic wars. (8)
 25) A high mountain. (3)
 26) A tropical marine mollusc with a robust spiral shell. (5)
 27) Expel a barrister. (6)



DOWN

- 1) The plants of a particular region. (5)
 2) Capital of the US state of California. (10)
 3) Member of a pastoral people of Tanzania and Kenya. (5)
 4) Pre decimal coin with a value of 25 pence. (5)
 5) Descend a near vertical surface using a doubled roped running through a friction device. (6)
 6) Establishment where domesticated animals are kept for breeding. (4)
 9) Small piece of glowing material in a dying fire. (5)
 10) A loop with a running knot that tightens as the rope is pulled. (5)
 12) The tallest cascade of water in the world. (5-5)
 13) Pleasantly warm. (5)
 14) One of any of the five classical styles of architecture. (5)
 18) The character who cometh in the title of a Eugene O'Neil play. (6)
 19) An area of land on the border between two countries. (5)
 20) The top surface of a step or stair. (5)
 22) Nickname of the statuette given as an Academy Award. (5)
 23) A very large brown seaweed. (4)

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ALL PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 24

New Messenger Deadline:
Mid-Day 14th May

Email all texts, announcements
 and other requests to:
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