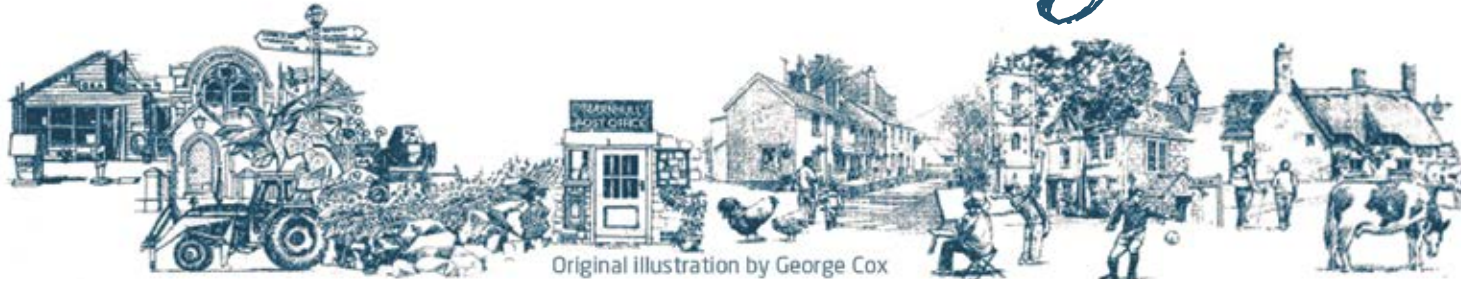


# Marnhull Messenger



Original illustration by George Cox

[www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk](http://www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk)

March 2017 - Issue 72

## From the Surgeries



What's new from our local doctors surgeries

page 7

## Gardening Tips



Monthly tips from our village experts

page 16

## From The Churches



All the latest news from the churches

page 14

## From The Schools



The latest from our village schools

page 18

## Marnhull Pantomime Tickets On Sale Now

page 24



## Village Hall Bingo

Friday April 7th 7.00 for 7.30pm

A traditional bingo evening of harmless fun and excitement. Refreshments, bar and stupendous raffle. Come and enjoy yourselves, all proceeds towards the Village Hall Improvement and Extension fund.

If you would like to help on the night / bring cakes / bring a prize – let us know.

### Contacts:

Tina Matthews 07773220284 / 01258 820054

Barbara Cornford: 01258 821427

## Marnhull Flower Show

Date Confirmed: Saturday 22nd July

More Details Soon

## Help For Heroes Coffee Morning

Save the Date: Friday 19th May

At Yew House Farm, New St, Marnhull

By courtesy of Mr and Mrs Michael Espley

Any queries please ring Diana or George Stephens - 01258 821418



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## Welcome to your Marnhull Messenger

Chris Ryu - Messenger Editor

As I send this to print, we've have a lovely day of sunshine and it feels like spring is here - perfect timing for the announcement that the Marnhull Flower Show is going ahead on the 22nd July (as is the Marnhull Fest).

Thank you to our contributors - all meeting the earlier deadline this month - I really appreciate it. The entertainment section on pages 10-11 have filled out nicely.

I was treated to a sneak preview of the Easter Pantomime this week - it's very good indeed and with only 3 showings, get your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Only £2 (children £1) from either of the village stores. They're looking for raffle prizes, so if you have anything suitable, please call Emma on 01258 821654.

On page 16 you'll see my Atom Club article - we've got some great news to share! We need some volunteers, everything from painting the walls & putting up shelves, to planning activity and finding sponsors - if you feel like you could help, please get in touch.

Last issue I said we'd be starting a new column featuring a different village business each month. There's been a slight delay on this and we'll now be starting this in the April issue.

### Deadline For Next Issue

**MID-DAY 17th March**

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

### Marnhull Messenger Contact Details

**Editor:** Chris Ryu - editor@marnhullmessenger.org.uk  
01258 821654 - 3 Corner Close, Marnhull, DT10 1PB

**Webmaster:** Chris Ryu - as above

**Advertising:** Rosie Gall - advertising@marnhullmessenger.org.uk

**Treasurer:** Bill Shannon - treasurer@marnhullmessenger.org.uk  
01258 820890

**Circulation:** The Eveleighs - circulation@marnhullmessenger.org.uk  
01258 821049 - Weavers House, Burton Street, Marnhull, DT10 1PS

**Chairman:** Ian Gall - chairman@marnhullmessenger.org.uk  
01258 820484

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### Royal British Legion



Couple of hiccups in the last report. Firstly the amount collected over the Remembrance period was just under £4,000 not £3,000, so give yourselves another pat on the back. We are always on the lookout for collectors so if you fancy helping get in touch with me or Poppy Appeal Organiser Val Eslick.

The other error was in saying that the first crib night would be on the 6th February having already said that they would be on the second and fourth Mondays, so apologies to anybody who did show up. After checking the calendar carefully I can confidently predict that the first crib night in March will be the 13th at 8.30 then on the 27th, novices or experts welcome.

Lyn Bartlett made a tremendous job of decorating the hall with all kinds of Valentine's decorations on Saturday 11th February and with a fair crowd and The Silhouettes keeping the dance floor filled a good time was had by all. Well done Lyn.

There is a jumble sale on March 4th with the doors opening at 10.15. Come and have a cup of tea or coffee, one of Lyn's home made cakes and have a browse. If you have any donations I will collect or come and drop it off on the day. Just a reminder that Lyn's bingo starts again on March 6th eyes down at 7pm doors open at 6.15.

On Sunday March 5th we will be holding our poppy sellers thank you party, there are lots of candidates for the cup this year so Val has a difficult job. It is decided on biggest total, best percentage increase and years of service, I'm just glad I don't have to choose. More in the next issue.

As usual Tony has laid on a full programme of entertainment with something to suit all tastes from Country, to 60's pop and up to heavier rock. Entry for non-members is a modest £2, so don't sit in front of the TV come down and be assured of a warm welcome.

### LEST WE FORGET

Sadly Eric Hodder has passed away and his familiar figure on his chair in the corner by the bar will be sadly missed by all his friends in the club. Also former member Harry Kemp. Likewise ex Wren Joan Payne

Branch business contact Jack Whitehead on 01258 820800 or email whitehead795@btinternet.com

## PARISH MUTTERINGS

The top topics being discussed this month:

Dog fouling campaign started 'BAG IT AND BIN IT..'

A review of Standing Orders is continuing

Street Cleaning

Telephone Boxes being taken out of service on hold pending appeal by NDDC

St Gregory's Churchyard maintenance being taken over by PC  
Does the village need more Defibrillators?

There are vacant plots available on the parish allotments on Sodom Lane. Annual rents are very reasonable so if you like the idea of taking up an allotment and growing your own produce as spring comes along, then contact the clerk to the parish council who will sign you up on 821231

Mobile phone mast resurrected, company interested do you want it?

All of the above are currently being dealt with by your Parish Council If you would like to learn more or wish to comment please call 821636 or email trevor.mpc@gmail.com

Recruiting Councillors are you interested? Contact Trevor Vaughan call 821636 or email trevor.mpc@gmail.com

## Rubber Bridge

Players welcome in Methodist Hall on Tuesday  
afternoons 2 – 5 pm.

For more details call:  
01258 821476 / 01258 820036

## Reunion: Fiona Eames

I used to live in Marnhull and would love to know how my old friends  
are doing. They knew me as Fiona Eames.

There was Claire, Carol and David Hardy, then Bob on Sodom Lane. If  
you would like to get in touch, please call me on 07518 868228.

I have never forgotten them and the happy times we had!

## Annual Diary 2017

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

### March

1st - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
1st - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
2nd - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30  
3rd - Lunch Club @ 12:00  
4th - Jumble Sale @ 10:15 British Legion Club  
6th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
6th - Parish Council Meeting @ 19:00  
7th - 30 mins of varied organ music. No charge  
- just pop-in! @ 12:15 St Gregory's  
8th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
8th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
8th - Mother's Union - Speaker from Hope  
Charity @ 14:30  
9th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30  
10th - Te Blackmore Vale Art Group - Gillian  
Lacey "Learning to see" A drawing day @ 10:30  
10th - Quite Half Hour of Prayer @ 12:00  
Methodist Church  
11th - An Evening of Song with Heidi Jarratt  
and Stephen Binnington @ 19:00 St Gregory's  
13th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
13th - Women's Institute 'Images of Dartmoor  
and the Four Seasons' Tony Burgess @ 19:30  
14th - Marnhull Garden Club "The New Forest  
from Conqueror to National Park" by Peter  
Roberts @ 19:30  
15th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
15th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
16th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30  
16th - Marnhull Yarners @ 13:30 Laburnum  
Cottage  
17th - Marnhull POPPin Cafe @ 10:00  
20th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
22nd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
22nd - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
23rd - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30  
25th - Cancer Research Big Breakfast -  
Methodist Church  
27th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
28th - Moviola 'The Light Between Oceans' @  
19:00  
29th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
29th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
30th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30

### April

1st - Charity Organ Marathon - Stephen  
Binnington @ 09:30 St Gregory's  
1st - Marnhull Pantomime presents  
'Pantamonium' @ 13:00 & 18:00  
2nd - Marnhull Pantomime Presents  
'Pantamonium' @ 13:00  
3rd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
3rd - Parish Council Meeting @ 19:00  
4th - Concert Presentation by pupils from  
St.Gregory's School. @ 12:15 St Gregory's  
5th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
5th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
6th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30  
7th - Lunch Club @ 12:00  
7th - Village Hall Easter Bingo @ 19:00  
10th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
10th - Women's Institute Annual Meeting with  
Cheese and Wine @ 19:30  
11th - Garden Club "Scented plants throughout  
the year" Marcus Dancer @ 19:30  
12th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
12th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
12th - Mother's Union - Joanne Wood @ 14:30  
Methodist Church  
13th - Garden Club Visit to Castle Gardens @  
18:45  
14th - The Blackmore Vale Art Group Drawing/  
Painting all day. @ 10:30  
14th - Quite Half Hour of Prayer @ 12:00 St  
Gregory's  
17th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
19th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
19th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
20th - Marnhull Yarners @ 13:30 Laburnum  
Cottage  
21st - Marnhull POPPin Cafe @ 10:00  
24th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
25th - Moviola 'A United Kingdom' @ 19:00  
26th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
26th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
27th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30

### May

1st - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
1st - Parish Council Meeting @ 19:00  
1st - Mother's Union - Coffee Morning @ 14:30  
Methodist Church  
3rd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
3rd - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
4th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30  
5th - Lunch Club @ 12:00  
8th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
8th - Women's Institute Resolutions and Beetle  
Drive @ 19:30  
9th - Garden Club "Wildlife & Archaeological  
jewels in North Dorset Rangers Patch" - Clive  
Whitbourn @ 19:30  
10th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
10th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
11th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30  
12th - The Blackmore Vale Art Group- David  
Marl "An approach to abstract painting" @  
10:30  
12th - The Blackmore Vale Art Group- David  
Marl "An approach to abstract painting" @  
10:30  
15th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
17th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
17th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
18th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30  
18th - Marnhull Yarners @ 13:30 Laburnum  
Cottage  
19th - Help for Heroes Coffee Morning @ 10:00  
Yew House Farm  
19th - Marnhull POPPin Cafe @ 10:00  
22nd - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
24th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
24th - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30  
25th - Baby and Toddler Group @ 09:30  
29th - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
31st - Table Tennis Club @ 14:15  
31st - Zumba Dance Fitness @ 19:30

## Marnhull Zumba



### How is Your New Year's Resolution Doing?

If you are having trouble keeping your resolution to get fit in 2017, then you need to make exercise more fun! You should try Emma Hurst's Zumba class on Wednesday's at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall to get you back on track. It is an hour's class which uses great dance moves to build your stamina and improve your core strength and flexibility. And what's more you can blow away your winter blues with music from sunnier climes.

There is no right or wrong way to do Zumba, so you can take it easy or dance double time as the music and your mood take you, and the class includes people of all ages and dance experience. If that is not enough to motivate you, there are themed sessions where you can dress up for Christmas or Hallowe'en and really go wild!! If you miss Emma's class, Liz Alford runs one on Monday evenings at 8pm at Sturminster and there are others in the neighbourhood.

## Blackmore Vale Inn Update

Following last month's report that the Blackmore Vale Inn had been sold subject to contract, we can now confirm that this sale has fallen through, as the two parties were unable to reach an agreement.

We approached Hall and Woodhouse to ask if it was still their intention to sell the Inn as a Public House. There seems to be an increasing feeling in the village that the Brewery is reluctant to sell the pub as a free house, as it would be in competition with The Crown, at the other end of the village. We pointed out that the Blackmore Vale Inn is an important community asset and that Marnhull is large enough to support two pubs.

Estates Manager, Peter Kitching responded – "The property is still very much for sale and we are currently in advanced negotiations with another interested party who informs us that it is their intention to run the pub. I hope we will have instructed solicitors in the next couple of weeks."

We hope to have more news next month...

## Cancer Research UK Big Breakfast

Well the 2017 Cancer Research Quiz was a great success, raising a clear profit of £1,452.00 which will go directly to CRUK. Thank you to all the sponsors who gave us some great raffle prizes which raised £290 along with a game played for a new VW Sirocco for a long weekend hire, donated by Mark Langford on behalf of Breeze Volkswagen, Poole, which raised £80. On Tuesday I received an anonymous donation for the quiz of £350 bringing the total to £1,752 absolutely amazing a big thank you to the donor.

The winning team was The Stragglers which was captained by Jack Whitehead, well done Jack and his team.

Once again on behalf of Cancer Research UK thank you to all the people who helped on the night, thank you to Alison Wood, Christine Shakespeare, and Mary Ann Newson-Smith who helped prepare 13 Cottage Pies and of course a big thank you to all the people who came and supported the quiz enabling us to raise such a grand total.

Hope to see you all at The Big Breakfast on the 25th March 10.0 clock at the Village Hall, we will be serving traditional full English breakfast with Toast and Marmalade and endless tea or coffee. Also breakfast baps with any filling are available, or just Coffee/Tea and toast.

Cancer Research UK Marnhull Sherborne and Districts Committee.

## Women's Institute



The moment a child learns to read he or she opens a treasure chest of ideas, information, imagination and adventure. That was the theme of Jill Keiran and Pat Budden's talk entitled "Reading Matters". They recalled the earliest books which had inspired and excited them, from "Railway Children" to "Wind in the Willows" and which included, as it did for many of their listeners, the whole library of Enid Blyton's ripping schoolgirl yarns. Some years later the pangs of young love were reflected in Dodie Smith's "I Captured the Castle".

Books can reflect the world we live in and help us make sense of it, or they can open a gateway to unfamiliar experiences and vistas. Jill and Pat expressed sadness that some people decline to explore the wonderful opportunities on offer.

If someone is unsure where to start in the bewildering tumult of the printed word, there are some internet sites which can help. Quick reads offers short pieces of writing, and Love Reading gives a choice of ten extracts from books so that a reader can pick something which catches his fancy.

Jill and Pat, along with several of their audience, are members of a reading group and they echoed all our feelings when they said how very much they enjoyed the involvement. The problem with selecting books for oneself is that there is a tendency to go back to familiar authors and subjects. It can be hard to break away from habit but in our book group we try to choose writing in every genre for our annual programme and it is in the very newness of the reading experience that the excitement lies. If you have never read any biography, try "A Scandalous Life" by Mary S. Lovell. If you want to try recent history try "The Hare with Amber Eyes" by Edmund de Wall. For an easy read and a Dorset connection try "The Novel in the Viola" by Natasha Solomons.

I could go on and on because the list of inspiring and absorbing reading material is literally endless because it is being constantly replenished. Ask any one of the WI reading Group for a list of suggestions. Good Reading!

On Sunday 25th June the Marnhull WI will be a hundred years old and we are planning a picnic on the recreation ground for members and their families. Put the date in your diary.

In March our speaker is Tony Burgess and his talk is entitled "Images of Dartmoor and the Four Seasons."

YV

## Marnhull Garden Club

The AGM of the Club was held on 16th February, and was attended by 50+ members. After presentation of the Minutes of last year's AGM, which were approved by the membership, Chairman Ian Pentland reported on 2016 activities, and outlined the plans for 2017. There was some discussion, and then the Treasurer reported on the health of the finances (good). This was followed by the Secretary's report. All three reports were accepted, and then the Committee members were put up for re-election. All were voted in unanimously.

Sally Baker has resigned from the Committee, and three new members have volunteered their services – Julie Reeves, Andrew Webb and David Bruce. Again all were unanimously approved.

This was followed by a very successful American Supper, and a picture quiz which revealed the depth of ignorance of some members (including me) regarding modern films. A good evening all round. Members are reminded that subscriptions (unchanged from last year at £15) will be due next month.

The next meeting will be on 14 March, and the subject is The New Forest from Conqueror to National Park. Visitors are always welcome.

SB





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 Contact: Mr Kim Harden, FCA, FCCA  
 4 New Street, Marnhull DT10 1PY

## From The Surgeries



### New GP

We are pleased to welcome Dr Lucy Bowden to the practice. Dr Bowden will be based at Sturminster Newton.

### Proposed Merger

Following initial discussions, The Blackmore Vale Partnership (Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton/Marnhull) and Stalbridge Surgery are formally proposing a merger in order to ensure patients can continue to receive high standards of care in the future.

Dr Simon Horner, The Blackmore Vale Partnership said "With the NHS nationally facing increased pressure, a crisis in GP recruitment and budget constraints, it makes sense for both practices to consider working more closely together and enjoying the benefits this will bring including – more choice and flexibility for patients, more effective use of GP time and greater negotiating power with the NHS to ensure the best possible services for our patients. We would like to ask patients registered at both practices to support this merger as we believe it will have great benefits for the communities in North Dorset".

Dr Steve Clayton, Stalbridge Surgery said "We understand that patients and staff may be anxious about the proposed merger, however we see this as a really positive move for both practices. This will help us to ensure sustainability of primary care services for the future for both populations as well as looking at new and improved ways of delivering healthcare more locally. I am pleased that succession of primary health care services will be secured for the 4400 patients of Stalbridge Surgery. This proposed merger is a result of twelve months of negotiations to ensure this continuation. At the time of the merger I will be leaving Stalbridge after over 24 years to pursue a more relaxed future within general practice".

The next stage of the process will involve teams from The Blackmore Vale Partnership and Stalbridge Surgery working closely with Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS England, patient groups and other partners to ensure the merger is in the best interests of local patients and those working within the healthcare community.

Jane Dawes, Managing Partner, The Blackmore Vale Partnership.

## Wanted To Rent Long Term

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Cottage Unfurnished Parking One Car  
Garden if possible Central Heating  
References Available - Tel: 07873 885035**

Ann

### Village Hall Hire Charges For Weddings & Parties

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ....£30.00      2 p.m. to 6 p.m. .... £30.00

6 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. (midnight on Sat and Sun) .... £50.00

Wedding hire... £150 per day

Booking Officer: 01258 821427



### News from the Nick.

Combating crime  
in your neighbourhood

PC 2146 Phil Sugrue

07500 816 258



Only one crime to report this month; a garage was broken into and a Husquvarna chain saw was stolen this occurred between the 11th/12th February.

The New North Dorset Rural Policing Team has been officially launched which includes Marnhull. This consists of a large area which is policed by a Sergeant, 2 Police Officers and 6 PCSO's including myself and PC Phil Sugrue. The area is made up of Blandford Rural, Sturminster Newton Town and Rural, Gillingham Rural and Shaftesbury Rural. This will enable us to work together and deal with emerging rural issues ie wildlife crime, poaching, farming issues, heritage crimes, antisocial behaviour, alongside our normal day to day business that occurs within the rural areas.

You can follow us on Facebook too:

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthDorsetRPT>

If you have any issues that you would like to discuss with us or if you would like to introduce yourself; we hold our monthly surgeries on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Post Office from 11.30am-12noon and at The Spar from 12noon-12.15pm.

**PCSO 5352  
Mandy Robinson  
Sturminster Newton Rural NPT**



## Marnhull Ramblers & Shorts



### Successful Year for the Marnhull Ramblers

The Marnhull Ramblers and Shorts are a friendly group of walkers who meet twice a month for a circular walk of 2 1/2 or 5 miles. The walk always ends at a pub or eatery where, if you want, you can stay on to enjoy lunch. We have had a successful year in the Marnhull Ramblers with 20 or more walkers coming to our short and longer rambles. We have also set up our web page [www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk/marnhull-ramblers/](http://www.marnhullmessenger.org.uk/marnhull-ramblers/) which gives up to date information on the upcoming walks together with the routes of some of our previous walks, and we have put in place a process that allows the walk leader to cancel a walk in case of inclement weather.

Our next walk is a Short on Wednesday 8th March starting at the Ship Inn, West Stour, meeting up at 10.45 am for an 11 am departure. You can also look forward to the the longer walk on Thursday 30th March which starts at the Poachers Inn, Piddletrenthide.

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The Marnhull POPPin Café is a non-profit making community project.

**Contact Linda 01258 820131**

## Marnhull POPPin Café

With fantastic support from the village as well as a great group of Volunteers the POPPin Café has now been open for over 6 months. Its attendance has never waned and it seems as popular as when it first opened. Since September we have welcomed on average about 70 people to the Café each month! It's definitely a Café for all ages, so if you haven't POPped in, give it a go and come along on the third Friday of the month and enjoy a nice big mug of tea or coffee and a good sized slice of home-made cake – all for just £1.50! We run as a non-profit making venture and any funds we raise will go back in to the community.

We have also produced our first POPPin Cake Recipe Book which gives the recipes for some of the yummy cakes we sell. Pick up a copy for just £1.50! Second-hand books and second-hand magazines are always available to buy or even to swap.

The Café is held in the Village Hall and sports a different theme each month which leaves people wondering – what (ever) next! Themes have included Marmalade, Newspaper & Print and Autumn. Plans for a St. Patrick's Day theme for March include – Guinness Cake and Irish Music and we will also be hosting a small stall selling a selection of Phoenix Trading Cards (raising funds for Help the Heroes) just in time for Easter. In April we are so lucky that it falls on the Queen's Birthday, which is very exciting. That month we will also be hosting a small stall of home-made cakes for sale we will be raising funds to help support an orphanage in Africa.

We are a friendly bunch and there is always plenty of good conversation to be had, or if you'd prefer you can just sit and read the paper. So if you've been thinking about popping along and haven't yet, we'd really love to see you – just POPPin, don't be shy – it's a great opportunity to meet up and make new friends!

Due to a kind donation from a couple in the village, we have now been able to purchase a new double-sided banner for roadside advertising, which is displayed the week the café opens – so you can't miss it!

Linda, Jill, Audrey, Joy and Dora!

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## Shaftesbury Orchestra

## Spring Concert Sunday 26th March

Centenary Hall, Port Regis School, Motcombe.

Entry is free but there will be a retiring collection for: HOPE FOR TOMORROW. Mobile Chemotherapy Units in our area. [www.hopefortomorrow.org.uk](http://www.hopefortomorrow.org.uk) Charity supported by Gillingham Rotary Club.

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Enjoy a night to remember ~ at The Exchange, Sturminster Newton, on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th April 2017. Two special evenings of light operatic entertainment, with breathtaking arias, music and sumptuous costumes - all artistically staged in a beautiful, colourful setting. The Exchange is once again delighted to proudly welcome the internationally-renowned London Festival Opera Company directed by Philip Blake Jones.

This year the world of opera and art combine to further enhance your evening by bringing you an exhibition of artwork, kindly supplied by Swarez - one of Europe's leading contemporary artists. All profits from the event will go to support two very worthy charities - Myeloma UK (bone marrow cancer) and the Sturminster Newton Exchange.

Special thanks to our sponsors Germaine de Capuccini, NFU Mutual Sturminster Newton, Arthouse Chocolate Artistry and Swarez - who has kindly provided the beautiful artwork for the Exhibition.

Only a few tickets remain for the Friday, for bookings please contact:

Box Office 01258 475137 or book online at [www.stur-exchange.co.uk](http://www.stur-exchange.co.uk)

## St Greg's Concert Season

The 2017 concert season gets under way at 12.15 on Tuesday 7th March with a 30-minute programme of organ music played by Stephen Binnington. There's music by Bach and Mendelssohn.

At 7.00pm on Saturday 11th March there is an evening of song with local soprano Heidi Jarratt.

Saturday 1st April is a busy day with Stephen playing the complete organ works by Alan Spedding as well as the complete organ voluntaries by William Boyce, a contemporary of Handel.

There are four sessions starting at 9.30, 12 noon, 2.00pm and 3.00pm. Donations appreciated for Church funds, St. Gregory's flower fund and The Alan Spedding Memorial Fund.

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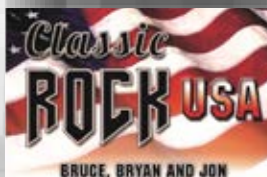
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## DAVID STARKEY

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## BSO Resonate Strings come to Marnhull

On February 3rd the Resonate Strings, a group of 5 musicians each representing one of the 5 string sections of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra came to Marnhull to do 2 concerts.

In the afternoon, sponsored by their own outreach programme, Artsreach and Marnhull Entertains, the group gave a workshop for the top Junior pupils from St Gregory's School, Marnhull, St Mary's Catholic School, Marnhull and Stower Provost School. Using a time machine (the Dr Who theme) the group took the children on a history tour of music and the instruments that each member of the group played. There were opportunities for some children to take part, a question and answer session and a song to join in with. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to see and hear a group of professional musicians and was much enjoyed by all 3 schools.

After a refreshment break and some serious practice time, in the evening the group played to a packed audience in St Gregory's Church. The programme 'reflected the wonderful diversity of the classical string repertoire with music from Vivaldi, Brahms, Mozart, Puccini, Handel and Piazzolla'. The BSO sent along one of their own team to provide the links between the pieces of music and information about the composers. It was a superb concert and the audience were thrilled with the experience, many asking for more. Marnhull Entertains in co-operation with Artsreach hope that similar concerts can be arranged in the future.

## Weatherbury Singers

Make a note in your diaries to join us for our **Concert** at **Blandford Forum's Parish Church, St Peter & St Paul** on **Saturday, 25th March** at **7.30 pm**

The Weatherbury Singers are joining with Blandford Choral Society to sing Faure: Requiem: Cantique de Jean Racine and Pergolesi: Magnificat

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**Sat. 18th March - Alto**    **Mon. 20th March - Bingo 7pm**  
**Sat. 25th March - The Dale Fender Band**    **Sat 1st April - Rip It Up**  
**Mon. 3rd April - Bingo 7pm**

Entry free to members others £2 on entertainment evenings

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## Thoughts from the Methodist Minister...

Dear Friends,

John Hull is a name that might not be familiar to many reading this article – and if that is the case, then I encourage you to find out more about this remarkable individual. Although John died (aged 80 years) in the summer of 2015, his name is in the news at the moment because a documentary film based on John's life has been nominated for three BAFTAs (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) and has won the British Independent Film Awards 'Best Documentary' prize.

The film, 'Notes on Blindness' is based on hours of audio recordings made by John in the early 1980's after he quite suddenly lost his sight (aged 45 years). John was a theologian and teacher - he studied at Cambridge and became Professor of Religious Education at Birmingham University. He was responsible for helping to shape religious education in schools and went on to train clergy in both the Methodist Church and Church of England. John had a brilliant career ahead of him when he lost his sight - it was a devastating blow. After losing sight, John knew that if he did not try to understand blindness it would destroy him, so he began keeping an audio diary. Over three years John recorded many hours of material, a unique testimony of loss, rebirth and renewal, exploring the interior world of blindness. This work was eventually published as a book in 1990, 'Touching the Rock'.

As many of you know, in recent months I have been recovering from a serious road accident – it has been a hard time and I have felt acutely the loss of freedom and mobility. I am making a good (but slow!) recovery. The film is a powerful aid which helps us to enter (just a little) into the world that John Hull, and many others, live in day-to-day. This story of loss seems so appropriate for this time of the Christian calendar as we enter the season of Lent. We hear again the story of Jesus - the One who lost so much - friends, freedom, dignity and ultimately, his life on the cross. His loss did not lead to him blaming God, or cursing others. Instead, the cross became the place where New Life could begin.

If you are able, try to watch the film, 'Notes on Blindness' or get a copy of the book on which it is based – 'Touching the Rock'. If you can't do these things, pause for a moment and give thanks for the gifts you enjoy, but... also acknowledge some of the things you may have lost – a friend, a measure of health & strength, a relationship, financial security, perhaps you have impaired vision or are losing your sight. John Hull's life began again when he lost his sight - his passionate and practical faith in the God his 'Rock' gave him the resources to continue his former life and also be 'born again' and discover something entirely new.

My prayer is that through this Lent and Easter, we will all be given the grace to cope with loss and discover Life...

Peace,

Rev Paul Arnold

### Marnhull Churches Sunday Services

#### Anglican Church of St. Gregory the Great, New Street

8.00 – Holy Communion

10.00 – Parish Eucharist

Weekday services as advertised

[www.StGregorysMarnhull.org.uk](http://www.StGregorysMarnhull.org.uk)

#### Catholic Church of Our Lady, Old Mill Lane

9.30 - Mass

6.00 - Mass

[www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk](http://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk)

#### Marnhull Methodist Church, Burton Street

10.00 - Morning Service

## St. Gregory's Church



### Services & Events for March 2017

**Please note: Morning Prayer is now held daily  
Tuesday to Friday at 8.00 in the Hussey Chapel**

#### Wednesday 1st - Ash Wednesday

09.00 - Children's Service led by St Gregory's Primary School  
(coffee served before and after service)

11.00 Holy Communion

7.00 pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist

#### Sunday 5th - First Sunday of Lent

8.00 – Holy Communion [said]

10.00 – Parish Eucharist

#### Wednesday 8th

09.00 - Children's Service led by St Gregory's Primary School  
(coffee served before and after service)

#### Sunday 12th - Second Sunday of Lent

08.00 – Holy Communion [said]

10.00 – Parish Eucharist

#### Wednesday 15th

09.00 - Children's Service led by St Gregory's Primary  
(coffee served before and after service)

11.00 Holy Communion

#### Sunday 19th - Third Sunday of Lent

08.00 – Holy Communion [said]

10.00 – Parish Eucharist

#### Wednesday 22nd

09.00 - Children's Service led by St Gregory's Primary  
(coffee served before and after service)

#### Sunday 26th - Mothering Sunday

08.00 – Holy Communion [said]

10.15 – Special Mothering Day Service with breakfast from 9.30  
(no Eucharist)

[www.stgregorysmarnhull.org.uk](http://www.stgregorysmarnhull.org.uk)

### Funerals

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Sandra (Sandie) Dibben who died on 6th January, from Moorside, Marnhull, and whose cremation and thanksgiving service was held on 26th January, 2017. May she rest in peace.

We also extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Derrick John Lewis who died on 20th January, from Marnhull, and whose cremation was held at on 7th February, 2017. May he rest in peace.

We also extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Madeleine Brand who died on 18th January, from Marnhull, and whose cremation was held at on 7th February, 2017. May she rest in peace.

We also extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Joan Marilyn Ann Hurd who died on 1st February, from Marnhull, and whose cremation was held at on 13th February, 2017. May she rest in peace.

We also extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Joan Payne, who died on 11th February, from Marnhull, and whose funeral took place at St Gregory's on was held at on 24th February, 2017. May she rest in peace.



## 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 and Days of Special Prayer in March

1 – Ash Wednesday (Day of fast and Abstinence)

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

17 – St Patrick (Feast) - Patron Saint of Ireland

20 – St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (transferred) (Solemnity)  
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

### Spiritual Development

A course (CD-based) on the highly acclaimed series of talks by Fr Dennis McBride, entitled 'Jesus and the Gospels' is currently running on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm, in the Chapelroom of Our Lady's Church. As the days become longer, it is planned move these viewings to the evening. It's free and all are welcome. Details are on the Parish Website (www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk).

### Parish People

Maevae Carson was baptised at Our Lady's on 18 February.

The funeral of Alexander Kwiatkowski took place at Our Lady's on 3 February. The funerals of Betty Kelly and Agnes McNamara were held on 6 February. Rose Honour died on 9 February. May they all rest in peace

### Catholic Parish History

There is to be a reprint of the yellow booklet 'Steadfast in Faith', which records the history of our Roman Catholic Parish and its two Churches (Our Lady & St Benedict). If you can add any further information/photographs, please email them to ericaling@btinternet.com, or ring 01258 472392.

## Churches Together

The Women's World Day of Prayer will be held at St Gregory's on 3 Mar. However, it will not be followed by a Lent lunch on this occasion, as the Luncheon Club will be meeting at the Village Hall on that day. Lent Prayers will be held in the Methodist Church and Lent lunches (soup, bread & cheese + coffee/tea) in the Methodist Hall, as usual. Details are as follows:

Date	Lent Prayers (12-12.30)	Lent Lunch (12-2pm)
10 Mar	Prayers led by Methodists	Lunch by Methodists
17 Mar	Prayers led by Our Lady's	Lunch by Our Lady's
24 Mar	Prayers led by St Gregory's	Lunch by St Gregory's
31 Mar	Prayers led by Methodists	Lunch by Methodists
7 Apr	Prayers led by Our Lady's	Lunch by the Mothers' Union

Lent prayers will focus on the following Sunday's lectionary readings.

The next Churches Together Committee meeting will be held at Tapshays Barn on 11 May, at 2.30pm.

## The Methodist Church



I'm very glad to say that our minister, the Rev'd Paul Arnold, is recovering from an injury following a road traffic accident before Christmas and, on his behalf, I would like to thank everyone in the village who has sent their good wishes to him. Your kind thoughts and prayers are much appreciated.

It was lovely to welcome St Gregory's congregation to our annual Covenant Service, held in January and led by Rev'd Joyce Norman. This particular service in the Methodist calendar was established by John Wesley around 1755 and aims to renew the believer's covenant with God. Nowadays it is usually held at the beginning of the year. The service has been simplified since Wesley's time, but important elements are retained and include phrases such as:

'...Christ has many services to be done. Some are easy, others are difficult. Some bring honour, others bring reproach. Some are suitable to our natural inclinations and temporal interests, others are contrary to both... Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.'

St Gregory's has joined us for this service over recent years and it was good that we were able to worship together again.

Lent starts on Wed. 1st March and finishes on Sat. 15th April this year and village events are below.

### \*2017 Lent Events in Marnhull\*

You, your family, friends and neighbours are most welcome to come to any of these events organised by the Marnhull Churches Working Together Group.

March 3rd 10.30-11.30 Women's World Day of Prayer – St Gregory's Church. (No Lent Lunch as the Luncheon Club meets in the Village Hall)

March 10th 12-12.30 Lent Prayers led by Methodists in the Church.  
12-2pm Lent Lunch in the Methodist Church Hall

March 17th 12-12.30 Lent Prayers led by Our Lady's in the Church.  
12-2pm Lent Lunch in the Methodist Church Hall

March 24th 12-12.30 Lent Prayers led by St Gregory's in the Church.  
12-2pm Lent Lunch in the Methodist Church Hall

March 31st 12-12.30 Lent Prayers led by Methodists in the Church.  
12-2pm Lent Lunch in the Methodist Church Hall

April 7th 12-12.30 Lent Prayers led by Our Lady's in the Methodist Church  
12-2pm Lent Lunch in the Methodist Church Hall.

\*\*The Lent Prayers will be based on the next Sunday's lectionary reading.\*\*  
Gillian Walsham (Steward)

## HIRE THE HALL!

The Methodist Church Hall is a good place to hire for family parties and social or other events for individuals, clubs, societies and classes. It is easy to find and parking is available. Rates are reasonable and bookings can be made by contacting Mrs Marlene Plowman on 01258 820869.

**QUIET HALF HOUR PRAYER**  
**10th March at Methodist Church**  
**12.00 -12.30pm - ALL WELCOME**

## Atom Club - Non-Profit Science & Coding Club

### Atom Club Have Found Our Centre!

We're in the final stages of securing our premises and while it is a little further out of the village than hoped, it's turned out to be perfect. Along with our amazing local supporters, we're now being backed by Dorset County Council, Santander and Just Act.



Initially, the centre will contain an educational shop, IT / Technology suite and activity area. Outside will be large dinosaurs and an area for astronomy classes. However, we're talking with possible sponsors to secure the other part of the building to house our planetarium and a forest-themed dinosaur area. More on this next month. By the time this goes to print we will have opened sponsorship opportunities for various areas of the centre including 'sponsor a dinosaur'!

The centre will be located on the outskirts of Sturminster Newton, opposite the Cool Play Activity Centre. While it is a 10-15 minute drive from the village, the location lends itself perfectly - plenty of parking, loads of space and nice dark skies for astronomy evenings.

Activity at the centre will include:

- After-school Science & Coding Clubs
- Planetarium shows
- Artefacts including fossils, meteorites, minerals, dinosaur bones, etc
- Life-size dinosaurs
- Computer / Technology lessons for all ages
- 3D Printing area
- Astronomy Evenings
- Green Screen facility

If we manage to secure a sponsor for the other half of the building, we'll also have a dino-zone, space-zone, archaeology and room for science fairs.

We're now looking for volunteers to help us prepare the centre. Are you handy with tools, or a paint brush? Do you have some time spare to help us create a place to get children into Science & Coding?

We hope to open for our first activity in late March, but in the meantime, we have a huge range (over 100 lines) of educational products on our website ([www.atom.club](http://www.atom.club)) - with all proceeds going to purchase equipment. Use discount code 'Marnhull' for a 5% discount and free delivery.

## Garden Reflections for the month of...



...March

Grey squirrels!! – delightful to watch but they can be an absolute nuisance in the garden. In our last home we suffered the predations of deer, pigeons, pheasants, mice, and rabbits, and of foxes (attacking our chickens) but no squirrels or moles. Here in Marnhull we have not (yet!) been pestered by deer but grey squirrels have taken their place.

They were introduced to the UK from North America about 140 years ago and have thrived ever since, partly due to being adaptable in various environments and to immunity from the parapox virus which affects the native red squirrel. They are nearly twice the weight of red squirrels and are far more acrobatic, often seen running along wires, walls, rooves, and other obstacle courses to reach food. Apparently they have amazing memories and can remember up to 400 sites where they have stored nuts and other food.

In the garden squirrels will eat fruit, seeds, nuts, flower buds, vegetables, corms, bulbs, strip bark from trees especially sycamore, maple, ash, and beech, and I also found that they chewed through the jute string tying up my peas and beans!

They often raid bird feeders, attack birds' nests taking eggs and/or fledglings, and if they find a suitable gap they will enter house attics and cause all sorts of problems there too such as nibbling through electrical wires. We know of someone who was alerted by piercing screaming from a grey squirrel trapped in a wire bird feeder! It took courage, thick gloves, and wire cutters to get it out!

So what can we do about them? As they are classified as a damaging non-native species grey squirrels can be legitimately killed and if they are trapped they cannot legally be released alive so humane traps can only be used if you are then prepared to kill the squirrel. Air rifles (if you are a good shot) and spring traps are considered as humane ways of dispensing of them. However, probably most of us don't have the stomach to dispense with the furry creatures so it boils down to methods of distraction or physical barriers to deter them.

I have tried squirrel-proof bird feeders but found that the wily animals became adept at knocking the feeders to and fro to scatter the seed on the ground. My next attempt will be to make a cage for the feeders with squirrel-proof netting and/or use dome-shaped baffles on the poles below the feeders (ok as long as squirrels cannot leap onto them from branches or walls). Another deterrent to protect bird food is to mix chilli powder with the bird seed – apparently the birds don't mind but squirrels do!

Methods of keeping squirrels from damaging trees include putting a fake owl in the tree, spreading prickly prunings such as brambles, berberis, etc around trees or fitting 'skirts' of chicken wire with sharp ends protruding around the base of trees.

To prevent squirrels digging up bulbs, a layer of chicken wire can be secured over the soil or the area can be scattered with chicken manure, chilli flakes, cayenne pepper, or moth balls. I haven't yet tried any of these methods but it sounds as if a nice hot manure curry might be on the cards soon!

Marnhull Garden Club

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### St. Gregory's C.E.VA Primary School

Our youngest children in Hedgehogs have enjoyed incorporating 'Frozen' into their learning. They have made a 'Polar Explore' area where they have been learning about the animals that live in the arctic. They have been busy making snowflakes and penguins as well as going for walks in the frost.

Year 1 children in Rabbits class were all desperate to become explorers and hike to the North and South Pole to set up camp. Unfortunately this was not possible so they had a visit from Commander James Risley of the Royal Navy who had been to the North Pole in his submarine. He brought in photos and shared stories from his trip and even had a bottle of North Pole water to show.

Some of you may have seen twenty four penguins leaving school early one morning; this was our Year 2 children going off to the Gillingham Cluster Schools Dance Festival at Mere where they delighted everyone with their dance 'Penguins on Ice' to the music 'The Ritz.'

We were very fortunate to have the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Resonate Strings come into school to give a concert to all of our Key Stage 2 children. Children from St Mary's and Stower Provost joined us for the concert and we thank Mrs Cooper-Hammond for organising it all.

Badgers class have been learning about the Ice Age, Creatures of the Ice Age, Ice Age hunters and Captain Scott and wrote non-fiction texts, including newspaper reports about the demise of the Woolly Mammoths. They have also learned how to write Haiku poems describing a winter scene and painted some lovely winter scenes to accompany their Haiku poems.

Our 'Kune Kune' pigs have arrived and settled well in their new home. Children are in the process of naming them and we will let you know next time the names they have chosen!

We were all very excited about the introduction to our new school topic 'Boing! Boing!' On the first day back after half term the children had a surprise awaiting them! The day began with a whole circus skills demonstration in the hall. Steve from 'Circus into Schools' demonstrated lots of circus skills such as juggling, plate spinning and tightrope walking.

Throughout the day each class enjoyed a workshop with Steve where they had the chance to learn some circus skills for themselves. The children worked hard to improve their balance and co-ordination skills. A great day was had by all and children are now busy practising these skills further at lunchtimes with some of our circus skills equipment we have in school.

### St. Mary's Catholic School

We have had a busy few weeks at St Mary's. Key Stage Two rounded off their 'London calling' topic with a trip to the capital. The children from Year 3 to 6 travelled to Waterloo on the train. Some of the children had never been on a train so this was a particularly exciting part of the day! We then spent time visiting and sketching the sights along the banks of the Thames, looking at everything from Big Ben to the Gherkin! All of this before taking in the famous pieces of art at The Tate Modern. The children had a fantastic day out!



We were all very proud of our Ofsted report following last month's inspection when the school managed to retain its 'good' rating for the second inspection running. The inspection report stated that the school is "going from strength to strength to help pupils achieve their maximum potential". It also said the school, "understands the balance between nurture for children and academic achievement well" and parents told the inspector how their children have "made amazing progress" and that they felt "happy and safe at school".

St Gregory's kindly invited us to spend the afternoon listening to the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Year 5 and 6 joined pupils from St Greg's to enjoy the music and learn a little about life in an orchestra! The children have also welcomed a new guinea-pig into Reception. Darwin will join Dickens as the two of them embark on their mission as reading guinea-pigs to encourage our less confident readers. The children care for the pair ensuring that they have enough food and water, get plenty of opportunities to exercise and are cleaned out on a regular basis.

We are getting excited about our new after school facility too! Bright Sparks will be opening a new 'stay and play' club from 3:15pm to 6:00pm daily in April. With our breakfast club, we will then be able to offer wrap-around care from 8:00am to 6:00pm daily.

If you would like to come and see what goes on at St Mary's, please feel free to call us on 01258 820417 or pop in at any time for a visit!

Charlotte Targett - Headteacher

### Marnhull Baby & Toddlers

We had a lovely morning on 26th January, making parrots that sit on your arm, the children really enjoyed making these. A big thank you to Rachel Oxford for arranging this activity.

Helen from Happy Huggers joined us on 2nd February bringing her lovely cosy products, from cosy toes, scarfs, blankets and her latest addition mermaid blankets, which the children loved trying.

Then on 9th February we made valentine's cards and we had Charlotte bring her range of lovely cosmetics.

Coming up over the next few weeks, we have Gill with Usborne books on 2nd march which is also world book day, where the children can dress up as their favourite characters.

Then on 9th March we have Rachel Carrick with Neal's yard products for us to have a look at, and our last chance to have a go at the lucky squares to win lovely Neal's yard products.

We then have Diana with her Pheonix cards coming in on 16th March.

As you can see there is alot to look forward to.

Emma and Dee



## Jungle Hut Pre-School

Well the office conversion is well under way creating our new sensory area as well as some much-needed extra play space by the time the next messenger is released we should be up and running with pictures to share with you.

This half term we have taken the children on many exciting walks exploring our village and discovering some of its many secret as well as making some dens the children have used their imagination in many ways making a Gruffalo cave must be right up there at the top. We now have our very special Forest school's back packs which are unique to the Jungle Hut Theme.



Our new back packs

Picnic in the park

The children celebrated the Chinese New Year making and eating a very delicious Chinese stir fry we had a visit from Yannel who came in wearing a ch'i-p'ao which is the traditional modern dress of Chinese woman Yannel did some Chinese writing with the children and giving the children the meaning of the symbols she had written the children really enjoyed having a go themselves. As it was the year of the rooster we had a visit from Rooney the Rooster who was quite friendly. The children also celebrated valentines day by making some delicious biscuits. Other topics have included Transport and People who help us.



Our Valentine biscuits

Painting with Tractors

We are looking forward to the next term leading up to Easter I have looked at what my staff have planned and again it looks as there are many exciting activities coming up making and eating pancakes on shrove Tuesday catches my eye this will involve the children looking at the ingredients needed lots of weighing measuring and counting needed as well as working together observing the ingredients change when mixed together to making the batter that will then with a bit of adult help will then be cooked in a frying pan watching the batter change shape and of course the best bit of all tossing the pancakes well no actually the best bit will be choosing the toppings and eating the pancakes yummy!!



Taking over the swings at the Park

## Lots to look forward to here at the Jungle hut.

Here at the Junglehut every day is different as you can imagine working with two, three and four-year-old children provides us with many challenges as well as being what we all feel is a wonderful rewarding job. From the start, we teach the children the basic rules of life we call these our golden rules below are some words written by a very special lady who has retired from her role as a Pre-school assessor but never the less has left lots of people with some very special memories.

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, what to do and how to be I have learned at Pre-school. Wisdom is not at the top of the University ladder but at the bottom of the sand tray.

These are the things I have learned: -

Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that are not yours. Say sorry when you have hurt someone. Wash your hands before you eat. Live a balanced life. Learn a bit and think a bit, draw and sing and dance and play and work a bit every day.

When you go out into the world watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Watch out for each other. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed – the roots go down and the shoots go up.

Goldfish, hamsters, white mice and even the little seed all die...and so do we.

Remember the first words you learned to read – the biggest and most important word of all – LOOK. Share the wonder of the world around you.

Think what a better place the world would be if we all had a basic policy always to put things back, undamaged, where we found them and always cleared up our own mess. It is still true that no matter how old you may be, that when you go out into the world it is best to hold hands and look out for each other.

Written by JMC NVQ Assessor.

We take children from 2 years – 5years accepting 2year old and 3/4year-old Nursery Grant. To find out more about what we get up to the Jungle Hut please visit our website at [junglehutpreschool.com](http://junglehutpreschool.com) or have a look at our up to date Facebook pages

If you would like to know more about the Jungle hut and the flexible childcare including our holiday clubs, please get in touch. Email [junglehutpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:junglehutpreschool@gmail.com)

Sue.

## St. Mary's Explorers

Our Explorers enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year. In the role play area we set the table for a Chinese supper and had fun practising eating with chopsticks. The children listened to Chinese music and created their own Chinese dragon dance, performing it with confidence in front of the whole school. They heard the story of the Chinese Emperor and the great animal race then recreated the story with our small world resources. On the mark making area they decorated Chinese lanterns with their own Chinese writing.

We were feeling very regale as our London topic came to an end. The children enjoyed listening to stories about the Queen including "The Queen's Hat" and "The Queen's Knickers." They had fun designing hats for the queen and dressing up as royalty. In the creative area they made their own flags to wave at the queen and drew some beautiful portraits of the Queen.

In the outdoor area we have seen the first glimpses of spring as our daffodils begin to grow. This marks the beginning of the growing seasons. We look forward to getting our wellies muddy as we prepare our veggie patch for this year's crops.

We have spaces in our pre-school. Please pop in to view the facilities and have a chat.



## Marnhull Village Hall

### Thursday 27th April: Wartime Fairgrounds: 2.15 for 2.30 p.m.

A first in Marnhull. This is a delightful afternoon of light entertainment with refreshments etc. A colourful (and nostalgic) glimpse of fairground life behind the scenes during wartime. Sit back and enjoy yourselves!

We may be able to arrange transport to and from the Village Hall for those who would appreciate it.

Tickets on sale from 1st April from Hall Committee members, Robin Hill and Spar Shops.

### 15miles in 2hours 27min. 30th April: 26 miles in

Yes, our never again 68 yrs. Marathon Man is up (or down) to 15 miles in 2 hrs 27, and improving, but what an effort! See him training around the village. To sponsor please contact any Committee member or visit either shop.

### The Robin Hill Stores little Window

The little window is un-booked by village organisations for nearly all of 2017. Given this, the Village Hall will have as a 'default display' for 2017 a progress report on the Building and Extension Improvement Fund. The window remains available for anyone else, and those wishing to use the window who have not already booked it should contact Mali on 01258 820177 / 07584411697. Thanks to the Robin Hill Stores.

### Building and Extension Improvement Fund

There has been an enormous and continuing amount of local support from village organisations and individuals as follows:

Village organisations		Events run by Village Hall		Individual / Events	
Gardening Club Raffle proceeds for 2017 just starting	150	Bingo evening 2016	589	Anon	1,000
Moviola	10,000	Music hall and social activity evening	418	Anon	40
Marnhull Messenger	500	Winter warmer lunch	100	Anon	100
Parish Council 2016 (in addition to annual grant)	2,500	Table top sale	349	Pitt-Rivers Charitable trust	250
Table tennis grant	100			Fish and chip quiz	254
TT Monthly member donations	889				
Tennis Club	200			Burns Night	1044
	1,000				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15339</b>		<b>1456</b>		<b>2688</b>

**Grand Total: £19,483 plus balance of Parker legacy.**

### Hall Contacts

**BOOKINGS:** Barbara Cornford - 01258 821427

**CARETAKER:** Tina Matthews - 01258 820054 / 07773220284

Chairman: Stephen Bland - 01258 820171

Treasurer: Janette Kenworthy - 01258 821311

Secretary: John Dowsett - 01258 821534

Sports Clubs / Pavilion Users Rep: Helen Butler

Parish Council Rep: Jane Wright

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## Blackmore Vale Art Group



In January the Blackmore Vale Art Group was very fortunate to have a demonstration of animal painting by the nationally renowned equestrian artist Katie Scorgie. In the afternoon we all tried our hands at an animal painting with Katie to help and encourage us.

It was noted that few people dared to depict a horse after watching Katie's masterly tutorial but there were plentiful cats, dogs, rabbits, cows, badgers and donkeys.

YV

## Mother's Union

We held a successful AGM in February when 13 members attended and we were able to welcome 2 new members Janni and Ian.

After the business part of the meeting we listened to favourite pieces of poetry read by some of the members.

Our next meeting is the 8th March when we have a speaker from Hope Charity. Visitors always welcome.

## News From Sturquest

Do join us for a FREE community event taking place at The Exchange on Monday 20th March (9am-3pm) and meet representatives of local groups and societies in the Sturminster Newton area. Over 30 exhibitors will be in the Stour Hall & Bow Room, with talks and demonstrations planned. To discover more, take a look at the SturQuest website and Facebook page.

### Now taking place in the SturQuest office.

Local jobseekers can now receive help and support from Mary-Louise every Monday (10am-12noon). New local jobs are also updated and displayed every Friday.

The next North Dorset Citizen Advice drop in session takes place on Friday 3rd March (10am-12noon). Call in to book an appointment.

You can collect your replacement glass box, paper box, food waste bin or kitchen caddy from the office during opening hours. A DWP reference number is provided via an eform on [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com).

You can contact the SturQuest Community Office by telephone on 01258 471456 or email [team@sturquest.org.uk](mailto:team@sturquest.org.uk) or visit the SturQuest website at [www.stur.org.uk](http://www.stur.org.uk)

Jacqui Wragg - Community Resource Worker



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## Marnhull Burns Night



It began with a chance remark, as these things often do - "Why not put on a dance to raise money for the Village Hall?" Jean Miller thought about it and decided that a dance would attract the ladies but that the men wouldn't come. What would get the men to an event? What do men like? Food and whisky seemed a good starting point and suddenly the idea for a Burns Night celebration was born.

The group of friends: Brenda Calvin, Hilary Chenery, Vicki Cooper-Hammond, Judy Fyfe, Eleanor Woodhouse and Jean herself, tossed the notion about and started to make plans. Adrian Curtis was approached and kindly agreed to source the haggis, Monty at the Crown offered to cook the neeps and tatties and to make the traditional cock-a-leekie soup and a number of ladies in the village volunteered to make well-laced trifles. Spouses and friends were co-opted to print and sell tickets, decorate the hall and source suitable decorations as well as to help on the night serving to a full house.



Preparations were also under way in the homes of the guests. Wardrobes were scrutinised for anything Gaelic, workboxes raided and Hansons Fabrics experienced an unprecedented run on its stocks of tartan material.

On the night the hall was set out with tables under gleaming white cloths and all around were swags of plaid. Everyone had managed to find some item of tartan.

To the skirl of pipes the haggis was ceremonially borne in. Bill Miller in full highland dress gave the traditional Address to the Haggis and then the feasting began. After we had eaten Bill gave the Immortal Memory, an appreciation of Robert Burns, Nick Lalor led a toast to the lassies, Jean gave the response to the ladies and George Stephens gave the loyal toast.

Then the tables were pushed aside and the dancing began. Jean shepherded the company, some of whom were complete novices, through some Scottish country dances and soon the room was full of reeling, twisting and skipping dancers. As the evening wore on the level of confidence seemed to grow and the reels looked more assured and less like a riot. At last we all gathered in a circle to sing Auld Lang Syne and the first Marnhull Burns Night Supper was over. All around were smiling faces and happy laughter. This was a splendid community occasion and one hopes the organising team will recover from the exhaustion of their duties and make this an annual event. I am hanging onto my half metre of Hanson's tartan in case.

The good news is we made a grand total of £1,043.82 towards the Village Hall Refurbishment. YV

## Village Hall Says Thank You For Burns Night

Echoing Yvonne Vintiner's Burns Night article we would like to extend a really special thank you to the 'gang of 6'. Out of the blue they created this wonderful event for the Village and raised the grand total of £1,043.82 for the Building Improvement and Extension Fund.

A big thank you must also be repeated to 'Monty' at the Crown for supplying a truly wonderful cooked main meal at very modest cost, to Adrian Curtis for providing the wonderful and everlasting haggis, and to the large number of supporters who helped in so many ways.

The Village Hall Executive Committee

## Another Burns Night Letter

It may have been my suggestion initially but the Burns Supper would not have gone so well without the terrific committee who volunteered to help and ran things so spectacularly, namely, Brenda Calvin, Hilary Chenery, Vicki Cooper-Hammond, Judy Fyfe and Eleanor Woodhouse not forgetting the incredible spouses. These folks went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure it came off. I'd like to extend my special thanks to them, as well as to Monty, Jemma and Team Crown for a superb meal and Adrian Curtis for providing the haggis and all the women who made the trifles. Thanks are also due to all those (they know who they are) who helped in various capacities to make the evening a success.

Jean Miller

## Village Hall Supporters Club

The first 2017 Draw will take place on 14th March at the Garden Club. Please ensure that your tickets have been purchased before 7th, otherwise they will not be entered.

Thank you.

## MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL AND SUPPORTERS CLUB APPLICATION FORM 2017

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

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Date..... Signature.....

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## WW1 Commemoration - Arthur Curtis

A memorial service for Arthur Curtis, one of the men on Marnhull's War Memorial, will be held at 11:50am on the 100th anniversary of Arthur's death, Monday 24th April, at All Saints church, Banstead, Surrey, as part of Banstead's World War One commemorations.

Arthur was born at home at Brickyard Cottage, Musbury Lane, Marnhull, on 6th July 1888. He was the first of two children born to James and Kate Curtis (nee Foote). James was a journeyman brick and tile maker and the family home was next to a brick kiln.

It was a time of labour on the move and the family left Marnhull in the 1890s and went to Font hill Bishop, in Wiltshire, where James worked as a groom at one of the large houses in or near the village. Sadly, he died of pneumonia when Arthur was just 10 years old and Kate was forced to take in laundry to make ends meet. She moved back to Marnhull and, in 1902, remarried to a recently-bereaved widower, Mark Kendall, a dealer and hawker, who also had children of his own. They went on to have three children together.

Arthur, 26 years old, volunteered to serve in the Army for the duration of the war and he attested at Kingston on 11th Jan 1915. Like many Banstead men, he chose to join the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

After completing his basic training, Arthur went to France with the 3rd Battalion on 1st June 1915. They held trenches in the Ypres Salient before heading south in the autumn to fight on the Hohenzollern Redoubt during the Battle of Loos. They arrived in Egypt at the end of the month and arrived at the port city of Salonika (Thessaloniki), in northern Greece, in December. They spent their first few weeks digging rather than fighting and Arthur seems to injured himself or become sick (disease was an occupational risk on the Salonika Front) and left his battalion at the end of the year.

When he returned to duty, it was to join the 8th Royal Fusiliers in northern France. May and June were spent in preparations for the Big Push. The 8th Fusiliers went into action in the Battle of the Somme on 10th July, when they took part in the capture of the fortress-village of Ovillers. When they went over the top, they found that the German machine-guns had not been silenced. The 8th Fusiliers suffered 653 casualties (out of 800 men) that day.

Despite their horrendous losses, they were soon back in the thick of it and fought at Pozieres in early August, taking part in the capture of Ration Trench. Here, Arthur must have been wounded as he left his battalion on 14th August. His injuries must have been serious as he spent several months recovering, probably in England, before going back out to France to serve with the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers.

At 4pm on 24th April 1917, the Fusiliers took part in an attack on the Blue Line objective in the phase of the Battle of Arras that became known as the Second Battle of the Scarpe. Advancing towards a wood near the village of Monchy, they came under heavy machine-gun fire and took cover in shell holes. One company then charged through the wood whilst two more flanked it and took up positions in pits on the north-east edge of the wood. Here they were sniped at, came under machine-gun fire and heavy shelling. They were not in contact with the battalions either side of them and patrols were sent out to the left and right. The patrol that went right never returned and the one that went left could find no sign of other British troops. With their numbers rapidly dwindling, no support on either flank and the Germans working their way around the edges of the Fusiliers' line, they were ordered to retire back to the British line at 6:50pm.

They suffered 190 casualties that day and Arthur was among the missing. He was later presumed to have been killed in action. He was 28 years old.

Arthur's body was not found or was not identifiable. He is one of eight Banstead men to be commemorated on the Arras Memorial and is also commemorated on the Marnhull War Memorial, the Banstead War Memorial, the Garton Memorial in All Saints, Banstead, churchyard, the memorial panels in the Lady Chapel at All Saints. His war service is recorded in the All Saints' Book of Men Who Served Overseas and a similar book at St Gregory's, Marnhull.

I'm writing to let you know about his commemoration and his story in case of interest but also to appeal for information through this publication. Does Arthur still have family in Marnhull and does anybody have a photograph of him? I can be contacted at banstead100@btconnect.com.

What does the entry in the war service book at St Gregory's says about him, is there anyone there that would be able to tell me?

James

## Help Needed - Horse Riders Old And New

We are trying to keep all horse riders safe by giving them alternative riding from the roads. Unfortunately in Marnhull we are very short of off road riding, there are only two designated bridleways could anyone who has ridden in Marnhull or the surrounding areas in the past or in their youth it doesn't matter how many years ago and remember other bridleways that have either been downgraded to footpaths or just disappeared please let me know so that we can try and get them reinstated, or have any suggestions for off road riding? Many thanks for your help in advance.

Pippa Ellis

malcolmandpippa@hotmail.com / 01258 821356

## Marnhull WI



Marnhull WI members who belong to our Pins and Needles group, have been making Green Hearts to wear and display on and around Valentines day. This is show the love for the places, people and life we want to protect from Climate Change.

We hope you saw our display's in Robin Hill Stores, St Gregory's Church and the Methodist Church Hall.

Margaret Bunch

## Marnhull Pantomime

The New Marnhull Players are rehearsing very hard while still having so much fun, to make this performance an enjoyable experience for you all.

Rehearsals are going really well and we are learning as we go, but it is such an exciting opportunity to be able to share our hard work with you all.

The children are doing amazing with their rehearsals as well, their dance routine brilliant, they work together very well and have listened to each other to come up with some fantastic ideas of their own.

**Please come and join us, the performances are:**

**Saturday 1st April 1pm and 6pm and Sunday 2nd April 1pm.**

You can buy tickets from Robin Hill stores or Spar shop now.

Ticket prices are:

**Family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £5**

**Adults tickets £2 each**

**Child tickets £1 each**

**Under 2's free**

Look forward to seeing you there.

All the cast

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## Trading Standards



## Alternative Dispute Resolution can help you

If you have a complaint about something you've bought, whether goods or a service, and dealing directly with the trader hasn't worked, you could ask an independent person to look at your consumer problem and try and find a solution. This is known as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The benefits for consumers are that ADR schemes are usually free or low cost and simple to use.

Ombudsman services are a type of ADR scheme which are impartial and free for consumers to use. They cover:

- financial companies, such as banks, building societies and insurance companies
- retailers, including online retailers
- energy companies
- telephone and internet companies
- furniture removers

There is also a Motor Ombudsman which covers the automotive industry. It can deal with complaints regarding vehicle sales – new and used, service, repair and vehicle warranties, provided the trader is a member. Most main dealers are members. Consumers can also 'rate' garages too.

Many trade associations also offer alternative dispute resolution as part of their services for their members. For instance, The Institute of Professional Willwriters offers a complaints service for complaints against willwriters and ABTA (The Travel Association) covers complaints involving leisure services such as package travel and travel agency services. The Federation of Master Builders covers complaints about the construction of new houses and house maintenance and improvement services, provided the trader is a member.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Regulations 2015 require almost all businesses which sell directly to consumers to point the consumer to a certified ADR scheme – where they cannot resolve a dispute in-house, and declare whether or not they intend to use that scheme.

So if you have a complaint you can't resolve, always check to see whether your complaint is covered by an ombudsman scheme or other ADR scheme, before considering court action. Indeed, the courts will have expected you to have explored those routes first before bringing the matter to them.

If you would like advice about your consumer rights then please contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506.

## Garage Break-in In Marnhull

Between Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th February a HUSQVARNA chainsaw was stolen from a garage in the Crown Road area of MARNHULL. Were you in the area? Did you see anything suspicious? If so please contact us quoting reference 55170021613. Thank you

Mandy Robinson (Dorset Police, PCSO 5352, Stour Valley)

## North Dorset District Council Backs Changes

The likelihood of Dorset's nine councils being replaced by two new unitary authorities is a step closer, after North Dorset District Council unanimously voted for change.

At a meeting of Full Council held today, councillors agreed to make a submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government requesting that Dorset's nine councils should be replaced by two new unitary councils. A - Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch and B - East, West, North Dorset, Purbeck, Weymouth & Portland.

More details to follow in the next Messenger. If successful, the new councils would 'go live' in April 2019.



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Adults £4.50

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Juniors £3.00

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## Badminton Club Night

Tuesday club night: 7.00–10.00pm

First night free to new members

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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

## Dorset Wildlife Trust

## March Event

Gardens, of whatever size, can offer a wonderful habitat for many of our wildlife species. Yet it's not always easy to know just what to plant in order to attract butterflies, birds and other native creatures.

The Dorset Wildlife Trust's Community Conservation Officer, Briony Baxter, can help with ideas for flowering plants to attract insects throughout the year, as well as ideas for water features and why dead wood and long grass can make beneficial habitats.

And that is just to start you off – she'll have many more ideas for you when she delivers her illustrated talk on Gardening for Wildlife on Wednesday 15th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Fontmell Magna (SP7 0PF). £2 (including tea/coffee & biscuits); no charge for children under 16.

A date for your diary: An illustrated talk on the Wildlife of Brownsea Island by Dorset Wildlife Trust Brownsea Island Manager, Chris Thain, on Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Fontmell Magna (SP7 0PF). £2 (including tea/coffee & biscuits); no charge for children under 16.

## University of the Third Age

The Revd Colin Marsh, who many of you will know, gave us an absorbing account of his cycle ride from Dunkirk to Romania, some 1800 miles. The journey was to help raise funds for Little John's House, a children's home in Cisnadioara, near Sibiu, in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains in Romania. Colin worked there for a short time in 1996, not long after it was set up to rescue young children from the state-run institutions. The charity now has an opportunity to buy extra land and to extend the facilities to accommodate more children, hence the fund-raising journey.

The trip took 6 weeks to complete, although Colin started from Dunkirk by himself he was joined by his younger brothers later in the journey, at Budapest and they cycled the remaining 400 miles together. The basic itinerary was to follow cycle routes by canals in Belgium and Holland and then rivers all the way to Romania. Colin arranged much of his accommodation on the trip through the Warm Showers Community, which is a free worldwide hospitality exchange for touring cyclists. Much of the route followed the Rhine and Danube but high water levels meant that various detours had to be found around flooded cycle paths which followed the rivers banks. Colin had taken many photographs to illustrate his talk and these showed the beautiful scenery through which he was travelling, the towns and villages encountered and people he had met. His route took him through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania.

All the Warm Showers hosts made him very welcome, the host in Hoegaarden was a well-known artist who had one of his sculptures fall on him the previous week, but still managed to be the perfect host. Colin's route took in many picturesque places such as Duesburgh, Cologne, Bonn, Koblenz, St. Goar, Rüdesheim, Hockhiem, Frankfurt, Hanau, Aschaffenburg, Wertheim, Würzburg, Happurg, Bamberg, Allersberg, Linz, Dürnstein, (Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned at the castle by the Duke of Austria, until the king's ransom was paid in 1194). The last town visited in Austria was Heinberg, where Colin managed to get his bicycle serviced. Then on in to Slovakia, still following the Danube on European Cycle Way 6. When he reached Esztergom he managed to look round the basilica and the photographs showed what a magnificent building it is with cupola letting in shafts of sunlight. Then on to Budapest where he met up with his younger brothers. They had break in Márkó for ice-cream before heading to Romania where they found storks nesting on telegraph poles and chimneys. Their first stop in Romania was Oradea and after breakfast they were on their way to Barta where they found that the accommodation was quite palatial. They then set off to Cisnadioara, their final destination. The trip raised over £8000 in sponsorship and will go towards improving the facilities for the children. If you live in or visit Shaftesbury you may be lucky enough see his old butterfly handled bike about town, as his wife has now brought him a new bike, which so far has not been used on such an adventure.

Our next meeting at 10am on the 2nd March, at the Father's House, Shaftesbury, will feature Richard Edwards; More Tales of a TV Cameraman. Details of all SGU3A groups and activities can be found at sgu3a.org.uk

# REMOUS

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## Crossword and Sudoku Answers

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

Hard

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

Medium

**ACROSS**  
 1. Shaman 4. Vichy 6. Alp 7. En croute 8. Bath 11. Elegy 13. Esau 15. Sciatric 16. Scrapie 17. Etch  
 19. Koppek 21. Disc 24. Oak apple 25. Ohm 26. Coat 27. Layman  
**DOWN**  
 1. Spelt 2. Montevideo 3. Nurse 4. Usury 5. Cleves 6. Arab 9. Ascot 10. Heath 12. Grace Kelly  
 13. Eland 14. Arles 18. Cupola 19. Kukri 20. Pupill 22. Ippon 23. Clam



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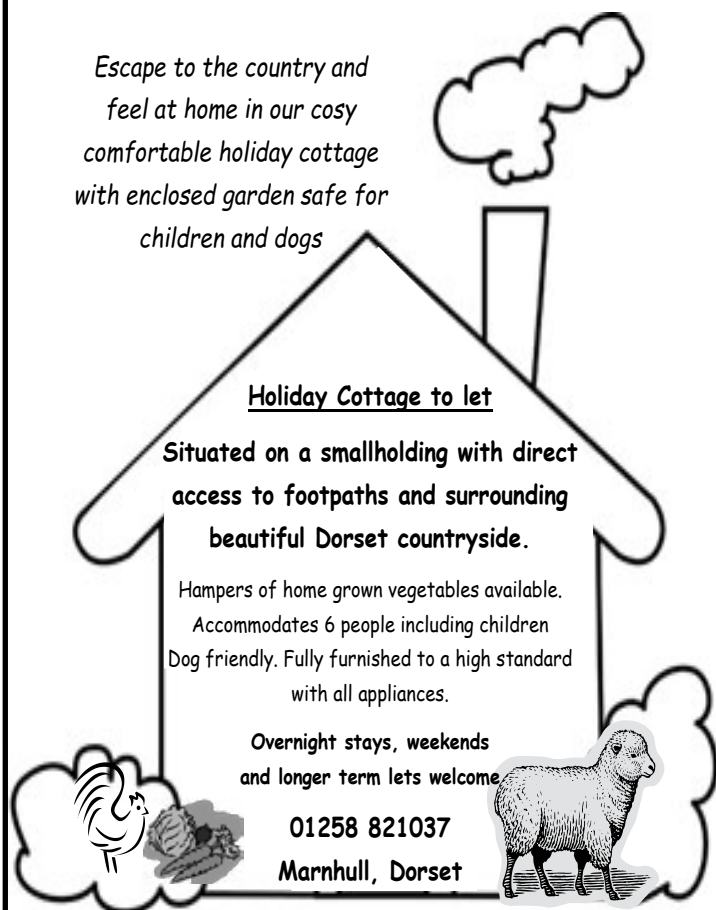
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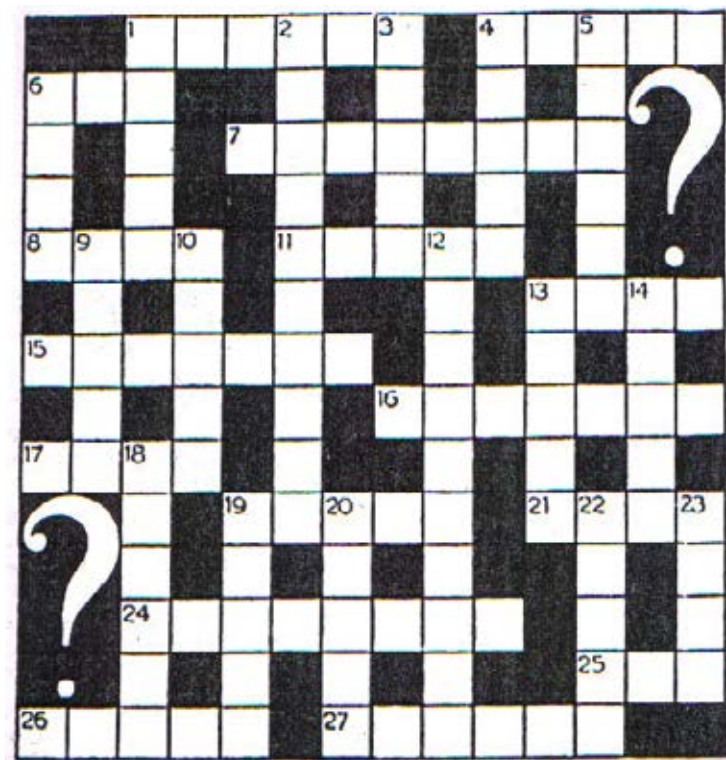


## All welcome

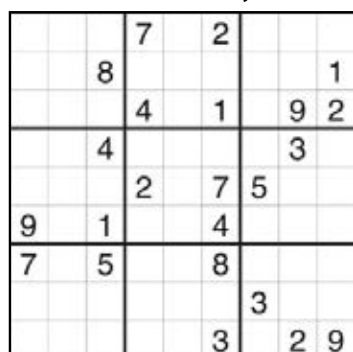
If you would like to help and support Mindful, or for more information, contact:

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### Hard Difficulty



### Medium Difficulty



## Sturminster Newton Floral Group

Sturminster Newton Floral Club is holding a demonstration by Carolyn Vanstone entitled "Moving". It will take place in the Chivrick Room at the Exchange at 7 30 pm.

There will be the usual raffle of her arrangements and tea and biscuits. The date is Wednesday the 8th March and it promises to be an entertaining evening. Visitors are welcome at a cost of £5.

## Child Okeford Flower Arranging Club

Our next meeting will be at 2.15pm on Tuesday 21st March in Child Okeford Village Hall when we shall work on practical designs based on the theme 'Reflections'. Everyone is most welcome. Visitors £6 to include refreshments. For further details please contact Sue Brown 01258 863775.

## Child Okeford Film Night

Friday 24th March at 7.30pm - Child Okeford Village Hall

'Sully: Miracle on the Hudson' 12A

Tickets £5 at the door or in advance on 01258 860518

### ACROSS

- 1) Native American medicine man thought to have access to the spirit world. (6)
- 4) Seat of the French government 1940 to 1944. (5)
- 6) A high mountain. (3)
- 7) French for in a pastry crust. (8)
- 8) City called Aquae Sulis by the Romans. (4)
- 11) A mournful poem. (5)
- 13) In the old Testament a son of Isaac and twin brother of Jacob. (4)
- 15) Largest single nerve in the human body. (7)
- 16) Disease of sheep attacking the central nervous system. (8)
- 17) Engrave using a needle and acid. (4)
- 19) One hundredth of a rouble. (5)
- 21) World invented by Terry Pratchett. (4)
- 24) Spongy spherical gall on certain trees caused by wasp larvae. (8)
- 25) Unit of electrical resistance. (3)
- 26) Raccoon like animal of South America with a long snout. (5)
- 27) Non ordained member of a church. (6)

### DOWN

- 1) An old type of wheat favoured as a health food. (5)
- 2) Capital city on the River Plate (10)
- 3) Grey Australian shark of shallow inshore waters. (5)
- 4) Lending money at very high rates of interest. (5)
- 5) Duchy that was the home of Henry VI's fourth wife. (6)
- 6) Breed of horse developed in the Middle East. (4)
- 9) Racecourse, site of the Royal Festival in June. (5)
- 10) Prime Minister that led the UK into the EEC in 1973. (5)
- 12) A Hollywood actress who became a princess in 1956. (5-5)
- 13) The largest antelope. (5)
- 14) Zodiac sign whose name means ram. (5)
- 18) Rounded dome forming a roof. (6)
- 19) Type of curved knife used by Gurkha's. (5)
- 20) Opening in the eye that regulates the amount of light reaching the retina. (5)
- 22). Point scored in judo or karate(5)
- 23) Large marine bivalve mollusc. (4)

**All puzzle answers on page 28**

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