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Parish Newsletter

December 2021

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Editor's Notes

Congratulations to Ella Beckett (7yrs) whose drawing is on this years Christmas front cover. We adored your reindeers and the smile on the Christmas tree. You have won a Waterstones Voucher. Enjoy.

It's exciting to see events on in the village again. By the time you receive this, The Masons Arms will already be lighting up half the village after it's Switch On. A huge thank you to Adam and Derek for always making such a huge effort. Especially at their busiest time of year.

This month we have the Christmas bingo on Friday 3rd December and our Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 12th. All information for times etc are in this edition.

I would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers who work so hard throughout the year in various capacities throughout the village. We have so many different organisations in the village including The Parish Council, all the volunteer's that have kept The Poppin open for twenty years, the village hall committee, church committee, shoebox ladies, the volunteers who run various clubs like The WI, Long Marston ladies, Bingo nights, Nosh n Natter, gardening club, and John Cooper Foundation, to name a few.

The cut off for the February magazine is Thursday 20th January.

Merry Christmas, and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Steph



Parish council comments

With the end of year approaching the Parish Council were keen to conclude on a range of topics that have been 'work in progress'. The ongoing matter of land transfer to the rear of Perry Orchard was again raised at the last meeting whereby correspondence was read regarding status. It was confirmed Lagan Homes and their legal council had agreed to the proposals set by the parish council solicitors (regarding access) and transfer documents were now being digitally prepared for signing. The council felt as transfer was now imminent it would be prudent to reorganise the working group for the open space.

The open space will be a key feature of the village and therefore important to determine best use, opportunities, protection (particularly to the front entrance) and specific projects to optimise its use. The council will also be discussing funding with WCC Biodiversity team with regards to monies for wildflower planting etc.,

Speeding through the village is an ongoing issue with more detailed discussions with Highways regarding options, available S106 monies and overall costs. The council discussed specific works scheduled for the village and with these in mind, any further speed calming measures may need to wait.

Councillors Mike Hillier and Ian Johnsey met with representatives of Severn Trent in Wyre Lane in October to discuss their planned sewer works in Long Marston.

The sewer network in Long Marston is collapsing in on itself and after a 6 year monitoring programme, Severn Trent have scheduled works to remedy starting April 2023.

These works are a full replacement not a liner and will incorporate the majority of the main road in Long Marston village and the Middle part of Wyre Lane around the left had fork towards Hopkins. It will not impact directly the newly surfaced road towards the Greenway.

Severn Trent will need to gain a new access road into Wyre Lane to maintain residential access. Options on this was discussed at the meeting. Severn Trent will review all options and advise in due course. When they undertake the sewer works in Wyre Lane they will need to disturb existing hedgerows. Their environmental obligation is to improve the existing position by 15% and will involve an environmental plan. They failed to do this in the works last Autumn. We raised their reinstatement obligations, and they will come back to us on this on a standalone basis which may include them putting in the necessary verge bollard protection system at their cost.

As roads will be closed it is likely that Long Marston will become a no through route for 2-3 months with access to residents homes only.

We raised the issue of the existing and the potential new speed build outs and seems likely the existing build outs may be affected by the new works.

The Parish Council were looking at options of installing two further build outs central to the village but the area in question is likely to be disturbed by Severn Trent works, it was therefore agreed that we should delay any further speed calming measures until after the ST works have been completed and will liaise with Severn Trent and Highways in this respect. Once plans are ratified, we can also review the implementation of new speed visors for the village in an appropriate position.

Information regarding the Severn Trent works will be updated as we get nearer to proposed start date.

Cllr. Perteghella gave a comprehensive report which included new directives being mapped out re Climate Change. The parish council were keen to review any initiatives on climate change and will be posting information early in the new year.

The Parish Council were pleased to learn the new charity status / legal entity has been finalised for the Pavilion Community Centre. The council have been proud to support the programme which offers a valuable meeting place, a community foodshare scheme and other community initiatives to a broad section of the community. It has generated valuable support from a team of volunteers who have not only formed friendships but have increased the services on offer at the centre.

The council is equally grateful to local residents who have generously provided foodstuffs and have joined the regular customers who meet at the centre for excellent coffee and cake. With Christmas lights and festive food planned for the Pavilion, what better way to meet with friends knowing all profit is used for community projects.

PLANNING MATTERS

21/02929/FUL, Marston House, Installation of dropped kerb to left of property. *Application Withdrawn.*

21/02218/LDP, Hopkins, re-roof property. *Application Withdrawn.*

20/03723/REM, (14/01186/OUT, Meon Vale Phase 4D around existing lake and close to the Greenway. We, along with many others objected to this proposal due to flooding being experienced on the adjacent sites. We currently have no indication that they have/are going to do anything about it, so our objection stands.

Turley's now have amended application plans due to consultation responses, but no amendment application number appears on the planning portal. Briefly, access and road widths have been changed for both speed reduction and tracking using correct vehicle dimensions. Certain car parking has been changed to integrate tree planting as well as avoiding conflict with driveway access.

Green screen fencing with climbing plants is now proposed to the boundaries fronting onto the Greenway to create a softer and more attractive edge. Plots 62 and 70 have been omitted from the plan bringing the total down from 73 to 71. Also, minor changes have been made to a number of plots as well as house types.

21/02405/REM, (14/01186/OUT), Meon Vale Phase 4C off Wellington Avenue. Proposal is for the development of 109 dwellings and associated works including the formation of a vehicle access from Wellington Avenue, provision of internal access roads, footpaths, parking, open space, landscaping and drainage infrastructure. Decision: No Objection. However, when responding to SDC to note the following narrative:

We do have concerns that need addressing.

1. *Consideration should be given for a pedestrian bridge link to the Greenway approximately halfway down the development. This could serve as access to the play areas, shop, pavilion, allotments, school etc. It could also serve as an access up the Greenway and into the Meon Woods over the existing bridge. This would prevent additional access points into the woods which could be detrimental to wildlife and biodiversity.*
2. *Consideration should also be given to lighting at the northern end of the proposed development to ensure that it does not unduly spill into the woodland.*
3. *The proposal lacks ambition with respect to Climate Change, achieving only minimum compliance with current regulations.*

Debbie Woodliffe
Parish Clerk

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, DECEMBER 20TH WITH MINCE PIES! LONG MARSTON VILLAGE HALL

Report from your District Councillor

Dear Residents



Hope you are enjoying the bright yellow and red colours of these last autumn days as we enter the winter months and the festive season. In November communities came together again to remember those who died in wars, past and present. Many beautiful and moving services took place all around my ward.

Advice and support on keeping warm: As the weather gets colder, keeping your home warm is more important than ever. If you find yourself concerned about being able to heat your home contact the charity Act on Energy for advice. Contact Act on Energy on 0800 988 2881 or email at advice@actonenergy.org.uk to find out how they can help.

Avian Influenza

The public has been urged not to touch sick or dead birds - as avian influenza was sadly confirmed by Defra in Worcestershire & Warwickshire. Any dead birds found should be reported to Stratford District Council on 01789 267 575 in office hours and 01926 339 577 out of hours.

Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council Merger

The Service integration between the two councils has progressed. Permission was given to start the work to identify shared civic and office accommodation. The public consultation has now ended. At the next council meeting in December the council will need to decide on the political merger of both councils. I will update you on the proposals after the December Council meeting.

Climate Change Programme for Stratford District Council

A climate change work programme for our Council has been put together, with 3 main ambitions, each with several actions which - if implemented - will contribute to making our area greener and reduce carbon emissions locally: 1. Net Zero Carbon Council by 2025, 2. Low Carbon South Warwickshire by 2030, 3. Adaptation by 2050. A report commissioned by the Council showed that the majority of carbon emissions in our district comes from transport (51%) and buildings (39%). We have asked the Council to create a dedicated website for the climate emergency to show its progress and to support and give advice to residents. I understand this website will be published in December. We have also asked for training and support to Parish Councils, as well as proposing possible community funds towards biodiversity and climate change projects.

New Waste Collection Contract



Following a procurement process Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils have awarded a joint refuse and recycling services contract to Biffa Waste Services Ltd. Starting in August 2022, the new South Warwickshire service will include the introduction of a 123+ system, as per below. We have asked the Cabinet for a detailed communication plan

to properly inform residents of this new waste strategy. If you have any query about this new contract, please get in touch.

1. Weekly food waste collection using food caddies (a small caddy for inside your property and a larger caddy to use outside and for collection).
2. Fortnightly dry recycling collection
3. Three-weekly refuse collection (using your existing grey/black wheeled bin).

\+ Fortnightly chargeable garden waste collection for those on green bin waste subscription

Local Government Electoral Boundary Review Update

The Local Government Boundary Commission consultation has been extended with new date of **6 December 2021**. In these proposals, the number of wards would be reduced to 35 (from 36) but the number of councillors will be increased to 41 so some wards will have two councillors. Stratford District Council is opposed to multi-member wards and instead has proposed 41 wards, each with one councillor. Eventually the Commission will decide. In these proposals the ward of Welford on Avon – one of the largest wards -would be split in two, into the Welford on Avon ward and the new ward of Long Marston. You can comment here: consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/24993

Meon Vale – dropped kerbs and streetlights

Residents have contacted me with regards to broken kerbs, lack of dropped kerbs and street lighting. It is increasingly difficult for residents in wheelchairs and with mobility scooters, for parents with pushchairs and young children to move around the village easily. Although not a district council matter, I'm pushing together with the Resident Association (MVRA) for the installation and/or refurbishment of dropped kerbs in various locations, to make MV a wheelchair and pushchair friendly village. The MVRA has submitted an audit to St Modwen with all the challenging locations. We are asking that urgent action is taken by the developers - and by Warwickshire County Council - to prioritise this work. I have also asked St Modwen to install temporary measures such as platforms while they await permission from Warwickshire County Council to improve the roads and footways. I have also written to our County Councillor to investigate the non-compliance with street lighting condition in parts of the village, as the County Council is responsible for monitoring street lighting schemes.

I'll be hosting a coffee morning and councillor's surgery on Saturday 4th December 2021 10:30am-12:30pm at the Welford and Weston Memorial Hall, High Street, Welford on Avon. There will be a book sale too, and some other stalls. We shall be following social distance and hand gel will provided. Councillor's surgeries in Long Marston and Meon Vale will be planned for the new year.

Finally, I take this opportunity to wish all residents a Happy, Happy Christmas and very best wishes for a prosperous and peaceful New Year 2022!

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any query, issue or concern you might have.

Warmest best wishes

Cllr Manuela Perteghella
Manuela.perteghella@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Mob. 07870488071
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CllrManuelaPerteghellaWelford

Village Hall News & Events

It's lovely to see our Village Hall looking great and getting lots of use as we head into the festive season.

November saw the return of Film Nights with a screening of Farmageddon enjoyed by young and old alike and two very successful Christmas shoebox packing sessions producing 349 wrapped boxes for children in Georgia as well as the regular events like Zumba and Line Dancing.

We're getting the decorations up ahead of the ever popular **Christmas Bingo** on 3rd Dec (from 7:30pm with eyes down at 8pm) and we'd love you to join us for an evening of fun and the first outing of our brand new bingo machine. The **Christmas Bazaar** on 12th Dec (from 2:30pm) will be the perfect way to pick up some gifts without having to brave the crowds in town.

Looking ahead to the New Year, don't forget to pencil in the **Magic Evening** with Paul Ray on 22nd Jan. Our next **Film Night** will be on the 25th Jan. We'll be confirming the film closer to the time (look out for a poster on the noticeboard) but this one will be for the grown ups with another family film planned for our February screening.

We've recently set up a **facebook page** to keep everyone up to date on Village Hall events so do give it a like to stay in touch and make sure you don't miss a thing (facebook.com/LMVillageHall).

Cat Price, Village Hall Committee

For bookings please call Jackie on 01789 720328

Dates for your diary

1st Dec - Long Marston Ladies 7:30pm

2nd Dec - Line Dancing 6pm

3rd Dec - Christmas Bingo 7:30pm

7th Dec - Zumba 9:20am
Art Class 10:30am

8th Dec - WI 7:30pm

9th Dec - Line Dancing 6pm

12th Dec - Christmas Bazaar 2:30pm

14th Dec - Zumba 9:20am
Art Class 10:30am

16th Dec - Line Dancing 6pm

20th Dec - Parish Council 7:30pm

21st Dec - Zumba 9:20am
Art Class 10:30am
Library/Coffee 10:20am

23rd Dec - Line Dancing 6pm

4th Jan - Zumba 9:20am

6th Jan - Line Dancing 6pm

11th Jan - Zumba 9:20am

12th Jan - WI 7:30pm

13th Jan - Line Dancing 6pm

17th Jan - Parish Council 7:30pm

18th Jan - Zumba 9:20am
Library/Coffee 10:20am

20th Jan - Line Dancing 6pm

22nd Jan - Magic Evening

25th Jan - Zumba 9:20am
Film Night 7pm

27th Jan - Line Dancing 6pm

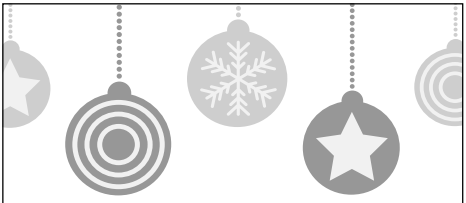
2nd Feb - Long Marston Ladies 7:30pm

AN EVENING OF COMEDY AND MAGIC WITH

PAUL RAY



Saturday 22nd January @ 7:30pm
Long Marston Village Hall
Sit Down Supper
£20 a head
Bar & Raffle
Reserve tickets:
Helen Leedham
01789 722446 /
helen.leedham@btinternet.com
Raising money for Alzheimer's



LONG MARSTON CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER FROM 2.30PM
LONG MARSTON VILLAGE HALL

TEA & CAKES, TOMBOLA, BRIC-A-BRAC, CHILDREN'S GAMES, PLANTS, AMAZING RAFFLE PRIZES.

FATHER CHRISTMAS HAS PROMISED TO ARRIVE DURING THE AFTERNOON!



Long Marston Village Hall
Friday 3rd December
Doors open 7.30 pm
Eyes down 8.00 pm

Great prizes!
Bar, snacks,
And raffle!

Hope to see you there!

Long Marston Gardening Club

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our visit to Evenley Wood Garden due to horrendous weather that day. Hopefully you were able to enjoy locally the wonderful colours of the autumn trees.

A few suggestions for your garden this December are to winter prune your wisteria by cutting out side shoots to 2 to 3 buds. Remove diseased or damaged growth from your climbing roses and tie in new. Leave you hydrangeas flower heads on to protect from frost, and in the vegetable garden net the brassicas to protect from pigeons.

Birds – put out fresh water every day and keep feeders topped up.

A note for your diary is our annual lunch at the Masons on Friday 28th January. More details will be sent out to members the beginning of January.

A very happy Christmas and New Year.

Wiggy Taylor
wiggytaylor@gmail.com

The late Roy Ward

We would just like to say a big thank you to the kindness that our family have received since the passing of Roy Ward.

We have been so overwhelmed in a lovely way by the cards & messages that we have received.

Roy had a wonderful life and had reached the grand age of "90".

It's acts of kindness & thoughtfulness like this that really make you appreciate what we have as a village community, its greatly appreciated at this sad time.

Thanks once again,
Alison & Candine

Congratulations to the winners of the Pumpkin Carving Competition

1st Prize	Oscar Moore
2nd prize	Poppy Buck
1st Prize	Emily Perry
2nd prize	Molly Buck

Well done to you all!

Long Marston W.I.

Our November meeting was our Annual General one but we quickly covered the business side so we could start our game of Kurling!

This was a new sport for all of us so rules were a little hazy! We divided into 2 teams and 4 players from each team played each match. The Kurling stones ran smoothly on ball bearings and were able to be pushed by hand or with a stick, either sitting or standing, so all our members could take part. Getting the stones onto the target was not easy. We all had great fun and were ready to enjoy our refreshments afterwards. The winning team kindly shared their prize chocolates with us all.

Our next meeting is our Christmas Party, on Weds Dec. 8th, when we will be joined by husbands and friends. We are looking forward to a Santa Drive, which apparently is like a Beetle Drive! It will be a nice start to the Christmas Festivities.

A Happy Christmas to Everyone from All WI Members!

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Avonvale Churches

Quinton with Admington, Long Marston, Meon Vale, Welford and Weston

Whoever you are, you are very welcome to join with us in any of our churches:

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER
Quinton
10.30am 'Altogether' Breakfast Service

Long Marston – 9am Holy Communion

Welford– 10.30am Family Communion

SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER
Quinton – 10.30am Holy Communion

Welford
10.30am 'Open Doors'
(a contemporary service of worship and teaching starting with refreshments from 10.15am)

Weston – 9am Holy Communion

FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER
Weston – Carol Service at 6.30pm

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER
Quinton
6.30pm Carol Service and Stars on the Tree

Long Marston
4pm Carol Service for all the Family

Welford – 9am Holy Communion
6.30pm Carol Service

WEDNESDAY 22ND DECEMBER
Midweek Communion in **Welford Church** at 10.30am. Everyone welcome.

FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER
(Christmas Eve)
Quinton – 4pm Christingle with Nativity
11pm Christmas Communion

Long Marston – 4pm Crib service

Welford – 6pm Carols at The Four Alls
11pm Christmas Communion

SATURDAY 25TH DECEMBER
(Christmas Day)
Quinton
10.30am Family Christmas Service

Long Marston
10am Christmas Communion

Welford – 10.30am Family service

Weston – 9am Christmas Communion

CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY
Quinton
10.30am 'Altogether' Breakfast Service

Long Marston
9am Holy Communion

Welford
10.30am Family Communion

SUNDAY 9TH JANUARY
Quinton 10.30am Holy Communion

Welford – 10.30am 'Open Doors'
(a contemporary service of worship and teaching starting with refreshments from 10.15am)

Weston 9am Holy Communion (BCP said)

SUNDAY 16TH JANUARY
Long Marston
10.30am Breakfast service

Welford – 9am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 23RD JANUARY
Quinton – 10.30 Family Communion

Welford – 4th@4pm Messy Church

Weston 9am Holy Communion
(BCP with hymns)

WEDNESDAY 26TH JANUARY
Midweek Communion in **Welford Church** at 10.30am. Everyone welcome.

SUNDAY 30TH JANUARY
5th Sunday United Service
10.30am at **Welford Church** with a speaker from The Leprosy Mission

'Holy Communion' is usually a traditional service of Holy Communion with hymns

Am I the only one who feels like their sense of time has been warped in some way by the experience of lockdown? I could just be getting older, but I swear I've never known a year fly by as quickly as this one – how on earth are we suddenly at the end of the year, with Christmas raising its tinsel-decked head above the horizon?

I suspect it has something to do with how busy so many of us have been, trying to make up for lost time with friends and family, trying to get back on track with everything we were used to doing, only doing it all at once. But by the time you are reading this we'll be on the brink of Advent, which is a Season that holds up its hand to 'busyness' and says 'stop'. Now Advent may not mean much more to you than those 24 doors on that calendar, but please allow me to persuade you that it has more to offer...

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for both the celebration of Jesus' birth, but also the return of Jesus at the end of history. This means that themes of hope, promises fulfilled and God's faithfulness mingle with making space to quietly reflect on our lives and their significance, with prayer and (for some) fasting from things we are in danger of taking for granted (a bit like during Lent). All of which connect into the value of stopping and quietly taking things in.

Of course, this stands in stark contrast to what December usually looks like for most of us: rushing around making sure we've got enough food for the big day, shopping for gifts, then all the parties, pantomimes and puddings (I really need to go easy on the puddings this year). Kept in perspective, all this stuff can be brilliant, but it is in danger of becoming a bit hollow if we lose sight of why we're doing it: the joy of being together, the pleasure of generosity, love for one another. Of course, being a vicar, I'd say all of these point to the greatness of God's love for us and the wonder of Jesus' birth among us.

So can I suggest that you join me in a quiet act of defiance this Advent? I know it's not realistic to simply put down all that other stuff, but how about in the midst of it, we make a commitment to take time to hit pause, to rest and reflect? Whether it's a woodland walk at the weekend, a weekly evening given over to turning off screens or beginning your mornings with a prayer and a poem – make Advent mean something this year. It could be the start of something wonderful.

Andrew

The Poppin

It's that time of year and may we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

We have local handmade chocolates and Christmas cake (to order), along with

a daily delivery of bread, rolls and pastries, from local independent bakery Le Petit Croissant. We also have a selection of cakes and savouries from Wests Bakery located at Wellesbourne.

This year we have hand raised pork pies of varying sizes, to order. Last orders must be in by 17th December. Payment must be made when you place your orders.

Willersey cooked hams will also be available on order. If you haven't tried the Ham, then treat your family, they are delicious.

We stock the best Feta cheese in town, along with Mozzarella, Parmesan, Halloumi and cheddars. Remember you can freeze Feta, Mozzarella and Parmesan. So, avoid disappointment and get a supply in for Christmas.

Remember you can buy Christmas gift cards from Vicky at the post office. They can be used online (TK Maxx, M&S, and Boots to name a few). Christmas cards, gifts and stamps are in, ready for you to post to family and friends here and abroad. Please keep a check on the posting dates.

We also have a selection of wines and spirits at competitive prices to help make your Christmas merry!

A SPECIAL TREAT FOR ALL OUR YOUNG CUSTOMERS

WE ARE INVITING YOU TO PICK UP A WOODEN CHRISTMAS TREE OR A SNOWMAN, TO DECORATE.

WE WOULD LOVE IT, IF YOU COULD RETURN IT, TO HELP US DECORATE THE SHOP.

Keep safe and have a good festive season.

THE POPPIN CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Friday 24th December	8am – 2pm	Papers as normal
Saturday 25th December	CLOSED	
Sunday 26th December	9am – 12pm	Papers as normal
Monday 27th December	9am – 12pm	Papers as normal
Tuesday 28th December	9am – 12pm	Papers as normal
Wednesday 29th December	8am – 4pm	Papers as normal
Thursday 30th December	8am – 4pm	Papers as normal
Friday 31st December	9am – 12pm	Papers as normal
Saturday 1st January (stocktake)	9am – 11am	Papers as normal
Sunday 2nd January	9am – 12pm	Papers as normal
Monday 3rd January	9am – 12pm	Papers as normal

The Post Office will be open as usual apart from Christmas day and bank holidays. For further information please call the post office on 01789 721411.

Long Marston Ladies

A Christmas shopping bazaar held in the village hall, hosted by The Long Marston Ladies, attracted plenty of people who purchased gifts from The Body Shop, jewellery, scented gifts, Mary Days Silks, festive plants, and even a chance to buy a Christmas outfit!

Then sitting to enjoy the lovely atmosphere with a hot drink and delicious cakes made by Helen.

Merry Christmas to all from The Long Marston Ladies.

Shoebox Appeal

TA big thank you to everyone who donated and helped pack. An amazing 349 boxes from Long Marston will be making their way to Georgia in Eastern Europe from the Evesham Teams4U depot. We packed 336 children's boxes and 13 family boxes. This will be the first time shoe boxes will have been distributed in Georgia and for many children it will be their first ever gift.

It was great to see so many children coming to pack. A special thank goes to them, they are expert at knowing what other children would like!

It was good to be packing in the hall once more and to see the community coming forward to support us.

We are already planning for next year! Please remember over Christmas that we need your empty shoeboxes, unused cards and wrapping paper! Also, when you sort out the children's toys please let us have any small unwanted ones!

A Happy Christmas to you all

From The Shoebox Team, Diana R, Nina, Wendy, Lyn, Anne H, June, Diana H, and Barbara.

Kid's Xmas Jokes

Knock Knock. *Who's there?* **Holly**
Holly who? **Holly-days are here again**!

Why did Father Christmas get a parking ticket on Christmas Eve?
He left his sleigh in a snow parking zone

What's every Elf's favourite type of music?
Wrap!





Lauren Bennett – 6th Dec

Nico Houghton – 6th Dec

Mollie Bluck – 9th Dec

Zoe Hancock – 26th Dec

Sebastien Reeves – 28th Jan

Please email any children's birthday dates to marstoneditor@yahoo.com.

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GOOD







FOOD

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CARRIAGE 5344

Scouts

1st Welford on Avon

We were very pleased to be able to present both Jacob and Barney with their Chief Scout's Silver Awards earlier this term – both boys worked hard to earn their Awards under the difficult circumstances caused by the pandemic.





Unfortunately we do not have a Cub Leader at the moment (our previous Cub Leader has moved on to Scouts). This means that Catherine, our Beaver Leader, and I are running joint Beaver and Cub meetings. This is not sustainable in the long run – in practice it means that we are planning and running two separate sessions each week, one for Cubs and one for Beavers, but at the same time on a Monday evening. This is a huge amount of work. We can do this at the moment but only because we have four amazing young leaders to help us.

A consequence of running joint Cubs and Beavers meetings is that we can have only half our normal maximum number of Beavers and one third of our normal maximum number of Cubs. There are a number of children on our waiting lists who are old enough to join Cubs or Beavers but we cannot them offer a place. With a new Cub Leader, we would be able to.

Put simply, if no-one comes forward to take on the role of Cub Leader, we will be forced to close our Beaver Colony. (We would have to have Cubs and Scouts rather than Beavers and Scouts, to enable children to carry on their Scouting experience once they had finished in the younger section.) We are hoping to keep the Beaver Colony going long enough to enable our youngest Beavers to stay with us as Beavers until they are old enough to move up to Cubs.

So please, if you might be able to help, do contact me. A first step could be for us to have a cup of tea and a chat so you could find out what being a Cub Leader would involve.

Maria Smith
welfordscoutgroup@yahoo.com

Scouts
Stratford Upon Avon

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Can you spot the 10 differences?





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On 20th October the MVRA met with representatives of St Modwen's Development and Quinton and Marston Sicca Parish Councils and welcomed PC Sid Hammond who is with Shipston Policing Team.

He explained that he has two PCSO's assisting him and together they cover and are responsible for policing an area of approx. 150 sq miles, with 15 villages including Meon Vale. We were surprised at such little resource for such a large area. Going forwards we are hoping Sid Hammond can join us every two months for an update, so this may give an opportunity for residents to engage directly and ask questions important to them.

There were 19 recorded incidents in the previous month including 2 traffic collisions and several anti-social behaviour reports, but overall, he summarised that MV was a low-rate crime area. Police patrols would continue around the village and particularly the skate park. We raised neighbourhood watch as an idea, but this has apparently been superseded by community WhatsApp groups, so we are looking into what that might entail for MV, and volunteers to run it.

We will be working with the police to have a community safety day in Meon Vale in early 2022.

(Email for reference is Shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk)

On 21st October Meon Vale Residents Association had a general meeting where we welcomed new members, the discussions lasted 2 hours.

Three events took place here for Halloween

The fantastic Meon Vale Woods Trail with thanks to Adam and Ryan who designed the trail features and to everyone who helped on the desk, £233.89 was raised which will help to fund future events and cover costs such as insurance. Also, Pumpkin Carving at the Pavilion Coffee House on Saturday 30th organised by Steph and Jane for the children with more than 30 carvings of all designs. On Sunday, Hot Chocolate Nite with Elf's Reunited, outside Londis.

Village Hall

The MVRA is working to get the Village Hall opened up and held a meeting on 4th November with St Modwens with the aim of forming a committee of residents that will manage the letting of the hall in the future. We are hopeful that the village hall will be available from early 2022.

Accessibility Audit

Following complaints from users of mobility scooters and parents with buggies about the lack of dropped kerbs, we have carried out an accessibility audit around the whole of Meon Vale. This has been sent to St Modwen Development and local councillors for action. We will keep pressing for accessibility issues to be resolved quickly.

Allotments next to the skate park should be ready for use before Christmas.

Speed calming was installed along Wellington Avenue which is already having an impact.

Sports
The MVRA has been awarded a grant of £5700 from Sport England to promote new sports activities to encourage more people to get active and to get to know each other. We are working with Meon Vale Leisure Centre to set up new sports especially for the over 50s and for children and families. The grant is supporting the following activities:

Bat and Chat (table tennis) is proving popular with 15 – 20 people playing on Wednesday mornings from 10-30 -12noon followed by a cuppa and chat at the Pavilion.

No Strings Badminton started on 1 November. It runs on Monday and Friday mornings from 10 -12.

Cricket group is practising on Sunday mornings and hoping to establish a club next season.

Walking Football – a list of interested people is being collated.

Children's Holiday activities – hoping to put on some more in the future.

Lots of other sports have set up this autumn – contact Leisure Centre for details.

Green Shoots Grant
MVRA has been awarded £4900 by Warwickshire County Council from its Green Shoots fund to help us to tackle climate change. We are looking to purchase water butts and compost bins for residents of Meon Vale as well as wildflower seeds. Interested? Please complete the form on MVRA Facebook.

Christmas Events in Meon Vale
Saturday 27th November 12pm – 4pm
Christmas Craft Fair at The pavilion Coffee Shop, Meon Vale.

Saturday 27th November starts 3pm
Elf event - Decorating the Christmas tree in the village hall - (free event for kids).

Sunday 28th November, 12 – 4pm
Craft Fair Village Hall, Meon.

Thursday 9th December, 8pm
Christmas Prize Bingo – in Meon Vale Village Hall.

Saturday 18th December, time tba
Father Christmas visiting plus carols.

For all the above events watch out for posters and Facebook notices nearer the date giving further details.

A few useful reminders and addresses
The residents' web site has now been launched www.meonvalera.org and is in the process of being developed so keep an eye on this. We are also on Facebook here www.facebook.com/MeonValeRA or just search for Meon Vale Residents Association,.

If you would like to get involved and volunteer on community projects and events as part of a thriving team of people of all ages, email us here on meonvaleresidents@gmail.com.

Ruchard Whittaker

Contacts

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ian Johnsey	Chairman
Bill Tempest	Vice Chairman
Anthony Hodges	Councillor
Noel Davis	Councillor
Michael Hillier	Councillor
Margaret Clarke	Councillor
Richard Whittaker	Councillor
Debbie Woodliffe	Parish Clerk/RFO

Marston Sicca Parish Council

Email: clerk@marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01386 834321 / 07485 437702

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Jackie Johnson 01789 720328

THE POPPIN VILLAGE STORE

01789 721011

THE POST OFFICE, LONG MARSTON 01789 721411

NOMINATED SAFE-GUARDING PERSON

Linda Thomas 01789 721180

DEFIBRILLATOR

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ST JAMES THE GREAT

Rector Rev Ros Greenhalgh

01789 751546

revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com

Church Warden Carol Watts

01789 507319

POLICE

Emergency only – 999

Non urgent contact – 101

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk/ship

PCSO 6230 Emma Turner

PCSO 6040 Fin Moore

PC 1508 Sid Hammond

Shipston Police Station 01789 444670

shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

www.facebook.com/ShipstonPolice

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

WEBSITE
www.marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk

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