Marston Sicca

Parish Newsletter

October 2021



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COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE/CARE

Community Food Share – Operated by a small team of volunteers who distribute food to those who require extra help during this pandemic.

Please contact **Stephenie Hillier (07720975023) or Debbie Woodliffe (07845437702). All inquiries and conversations are strictly confidential.**

If you would like to donate food towards **The Community Food Share there will be a collection box outside The Poppin, Long Marston and inside Londis, Meon Vale. Thank you.**



Editor's Notes

Thank you to Pages Farm Shop for allowing Simon Hanagarth (simonhanagarthphotography.co.uk), to take the photo on the front cover. It looks like the perfect pumpkin as well! Pages will have an assortment of pumpkins and squashes for all your little witches, ghosts and zombies! Pages are found on t he Stratford Road, just before entering Mickleton.

After the success of previous spooky trails, there will be a spooky Halloween Trail through the woodlands at meon Vale. Keep an eye on www.meonvalera.org for any information.

Please remind all your children on Halloween to only approach houses with lit pumpkins in the window or porch.

How nice is it that we are all out and about, meeting friends, and having activities in the village hall? This month is the harvest Supper on 22nd October. Tickets are on sale in The Poppin.

Lastly, The Masons are planning a spectacular Christmas light switch on for November 26th. More details in next months newsletter

Steph



Parish council comments

The Parish Council are pleased to introduce our new Parish Councillor Richard Whittaker. Richard is a resident of Meon Vale and will largely be focused on representing the development. Marston Sicca are fortunate to have a dedicated, diverse mix of councillors who work hard to make a difference for our community. To ensure all residents are able to participate in our meetings, it is our intention to hold some meetings within Meon Vale.

Residents at our recent meeting raised again the issue of speeding. Being a continual problem for the village, the Parish Council have been working with Highways to secure further speed calming measures. With some S106 monies remaining, the council options are being reviewed for the centre of the village to combat cars speeding up once past the bollards.

It was extremely good news to learn the Parish Council have secured

Infrastructure Funding Allocation (CIL) for the Community Pavilion Project. With a wide range of community services operating from the Pavilion, the funding will help support the schemes and the community coffee shop. The council would like to thank our District Councillor who provides ongoing support and all the volunteers and working partners who give an extraordinary amount of time to the project.

With regards to ongoing matters, the signage for the Barley Fields Play area is ready to be installed with Cllr. Johnsey kindly offering to do the work. In addition, our busy chairman and councillor for maintenance, Mr Johnsey is also organising the erection of small bollards to Wyre Lane. Cllr. Hillier and Cllr. Johnsey will be reviewing remedial work needed to Barley Fields play area (including boundary fencing and the entrance gates).

Cllr. Hillier has also planned to meet with Severn Trent ahead of works to commence to Wyre Lane. Full details will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Perteghella gave an informative report on various issues relating to the parish including Consultation on Proposed South Warwickshire Council. Funding for District Council's has been significantly reduced whilst costs for delivering key services is increasing. Faced with these pressures the elected members of both Councils have agreed to explore the principle of Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Council to formally merge. A full consultation exercise was launched on September 6th 2021 and this will run until 24th October 2021 with the public being invited to have their say through this process. A dedicated website has been established for the consultation: https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk

21/02216/LDE, Hopkins Wyre Lane – to complete the barn conversation originally given approval against planning application 93/01032/FUL.
Decision: No Objection

20/02745/OUT, Airfield House, 60 Dwellings. This has now appeared on the planning portal as approved with conditions.

Debbie Woodliffe
Parish Clerk

Next Parish Council Meeting
18th October 2021



Report from your District Councillor

Dear Residents

It was lovely to see some of you at my councillor's surgeries in Long Marston and Meon Vale on the 15th September, and listen to some of the issues and challenges in the villages, but also hear of the new initiatives and great community spirit. I hope to be able to organise further surgeries this year, depending on the Covid 19 situation. The main issue which residents brought to my attention was the speeding traffic in the village (something I witnesses during my surgery). As this is a County Council responsibility, I have raised this again with our new County Councillor. I'm working to solve and get updates on the other queries you raised.

Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council Merger Public consultation

The most important update is that the public consultation on the plans to create a South Warwickshire Council started on Monday 6 September and runs until Sunday 24 October. Local residents, businesses, Town and Parish Councils, local groups and organisations and key stakeholders are encouraged to take part and have their say by completing the online questionnaire. The consultation document and online questionnaire can be viewed and completed at www.southwarwickshire.org.uk

Questionnaires for completion on paper, as well as in different languages and formats can be requested by emailing: swconsultation@stratford-dc.gov.uk or calling 01789 267575. The paper questionnaires are returned using a FREEPOST address. Questionnaires are also available to pick up at the District Council's offices at Elizabeth House, Church Street, CV37 6HX The findings from the consultation will be considered, along with any other evidence, at a meeting of the councils on 13 December 2021. A decision will be taken as to whether the councillors want to formally ask government to allow the councils to merge. Therefore, it's fundamental that we hear your thoughts, including any concerns. The Deloitte report can be found on the website (link above) and this lists the benefits and risks of a merger. The deadline for the survey is Sunday 24 October 2021.



Infrastructure Funding Allocation (CIL)

Brilliant news that the Community Pavillion Project was allocated CIL funding by the Council, from the 2021 allocation round of infrastructure funding. Well done to all those involved in this wonderful initiative.

Local Government Electoral Boundary Review Update

The Local Government Boundary Commission has reviewed all proposals and has published draft recommendations for new wards, ward boundaries, and ward names for Stratford-on-Avon District Council. They are now inviting comments from the public on those recommendations. Consultation closes on 08 November

2021. In these proposals, the number of wards would be reduced to 35 (from the current 36) but the number of councillors will be increased to 41. If these proposals are adopted, it would mean that some wards will have 2 ward members. In these recommendations, the ward of Welford on Avon has been split in two, with Welford, Dorsington, Luddington, Weston and Binton in the ward of Welford on Avon, and the new ward of Long Marston containing Long Marston, Meon Vale, Clifford Chambers and Milcote. You can comment here: consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/24993

Phase4 B and Phase 4D constructions site Meon Vale

I have been made aware by residents in Cotswolds Vale of several issues with regards to building contractors laying the ground work for Phase4 B at Meon Vale. These included reports of dust, noise, and heavy work taking place before 8am, including HGVs parking near resident homes with engines running, mud on the road and damage to roads and kerbs. I know many residents have complained to the council. I have also contacted enforcement and environmental health asking to urgently investigate and take action. I also visited the site with a Resident Association representative. The enforcement officer has been on site and the contractors have now implemented some processes which should alleviate the problems. A new Construction Management Plan to reflect the highly populated surroundings will also be submitted and implemented. Environmental health is investigating whether ground testing has been discharged. Further to these, residents have alerted the council that work started on Phase 4D site even though the planning application is still pending determination. As such, at time of writing, a temporary stop notice (28 days) was issued on the Phase 4 D site in relation to application 20/03723/REM as works have commenced prior to the reserved matters being granted. We shall monitor the situation on these sites and I will chase up any associated issue which still needs to be resolved.

Stratford Mop Job & Apprentice Fair

A Job and Apprentice Fair for both employers and those seeking employment will take place in October in Stratford to coincide with the Mop.

Where: Stratford Playhouse, 14 Rother Street, Stratford, CV37 6LU

When: 12th October 12 – 6pm

Employers and businesses please note: For employers looking to recruit please note that this will be a FREE event – there are no charges for participating. Stalls will be available or we can simply give out information on your behalf. If you or your organisation are interested in participating in this event please email: recruitmentfair@stratford-dc-gov.uk

In the next issue of the newsletter, I will list funding and grants available for community projects.

Finally, 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

Long Marston Gardening Club

In September we visited Bridge Nursery at Napton, which was an amazing productive garden created out of a plain field of clay soil. They had a lovely array of flower beds which we were able to spot plants we fancied, and subsequently purchased to take home! A good tea was served, and we really appreciated such a welcome host.

In October it is our last outing of the year to Evenley Wood Gardens, about a 55 minute drive away. It is a 60 acre private woodland garden, and hopefully the trees may have started turning. Please contact Wiggy if you wish to join us. 01789 720275.

Wiggy Taylor
wiggytaylor@gmail.com

Halloween Kid's Jokes

Knock knock – Who's there?
Phillip – Phillip who?
Phillip my bag with Halloween sweets, please!

Why did the skeleton climb up the tree?
Because a dog was after his bones!

What's a ghost's favourite dessert?
I scream!



Harvest Supper

Friday 22nd October 2021

Long Marston Village Hall
7pm for 7.30pm start

Entertainment by Tom Hall – singer and guitar player

Tickets - £10 adults, £5 children

Tickets available from The Poppin



Meg Cond – 12th October

If you would like your child's birthday to be included in the newsletter, please email marstoneditor@yahoo.com, including name and date of birth.

Many thanks.

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"One day, son, all this will be yours."...?!

This is a cartoon that was circulated on social media last year and, along with scene of destruction, the bit that got me is that even the rats are doing a runner!

As I write, the Church of England is in the 'Season of Creation' (September & October) which is a festival adopted from the Eastern Orthodox Church. It is a time when we give space to reflect, give thanks for, and pray for God's world and all that is in it. It is also a time when we think about how and why it should be protected. I note though that as you read this, November and a time of Remembrance will also be fast approaching. With this in mind, for me the phrase 'One day, son, all this will be yours' seems to hold its own poignance. Once again, this year we will remember those parents, grandparents, great grandparents and friends that fought and died for our freedom and to make sure that the world they left for us was safe. That responsibility has been past to us and evidence about the state of our planet seems to suggest that we have done a pretty poor job. Sure, this threat may not be one of war, but those leading in our scientific communities believe a similar 'emergency' response is required if we are to lessen the effects of our changing climate. Climate Change may not have been something those who fought and died for us in the world wars knew about, but I am sure they'd be unimpressed with the outlook for the world that we have created.

I wonder, do you sometimes speculate at what God thinks about all this? Well, if so the Bible is the place to start and in the first book of the Bible, the book



'One day, son, all this will be yours.'

of Genesis, we read that the world God created was good and that he was pleased with it (that includes you and me by the way!). We also see God described as the gardener, the one who compassionately tends to and looks after creation. This responsibility is one that God then passes onto humanity. God has called us all to tend to the earth with compassion and wisdom. There is a lot that we have already improved, here in Long Marston we live in a rural farming community and many UK farming systems now used are known to be some of least impactful on the environment in the world. We also now see energy companies diversifying and investing in green energy sources, and many of us have made life changes that reduce our impact, but of course we should not get complacent, there is always need for improvement in these areas and we all still fall short - I was reminded by someone just the other day of the old diesel car that we drive!

One thing that we can all do is pray. For the first time ever, a joint statement has been created by the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Anglican Communion warning 'of the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on poverty, and the importance of global cooperation.' This joint statement also calls 'everyone to play their part in 'choosing life for the future of the planet' and 'to pray for world leaders ahead of COP26, for 'those with far-reaching responsibilities' and for individuals as we 'make meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the planet.' If you want to read the statement you should find it by searching online for 'A joint statement for the protection of creation.'

So, I urge you to act and pray, I for one would like to be passing onto my children and grandchildren a different scene to that in the cartoon.

Every blessing

Jim
Assistant Curate of Quinton, Welford, Weston and Marston Sicca

Avonvale *Churches*

are the family of Anglican Churches serving 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

3rd October and 7th November
Long Marston 9am Holy Communion
Welford 10.30am Family Communion
Quinton 10.30am 'Altogether' Breakfast Service

10th October
Weston 9am Holy Communion (BCP)
Quinton 10.30am Holy Communion
Welford 10.30am 'Open Doors'
a contemporary service of worship and teaching starting with refreshments at 10.15am

NB on the 14th November there will be a change to normal service patterns for Remembrance Sunday:
Weston 9am Holy Communion (BCP)
Welford, Quinton and Long Marston
10.45am Remembrance Sunday Service

17th October & 21st November
Welford 9am Holy Communion
Long Marston 10.30am Breakfast Service (Harvest Festival 17th Oct)

24th October and 28th November
Weston 9am Holy Communion (BCP) with hymns
Quinton 10.30am Family Communion
Welford 4pm '4th@4' Messy Church style service with tea

31st October
10.30am Avonvale Churches meet together in *Quinton Church* for a special service for All Saints and All Souls with a time of remembering

In addition - for all the churches:

Weds 27th October and Weds 24th Nov)
a short service of Holy Communion followed by refreshments and a time for chat in *Welford Church*. Do come along – even if you've never been before!



Spiced carrot and orange soup

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 250g onions, roughly chopped
- 750g carrots, scrubbed and chopped
- 200g potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 300mls Orange juice
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tsp ground mixed spice
- salt and pepper

Method

1. Place a large heavy-based pan over a medium heat and when hot add the oil, onions, carrots and potatoes. Stir well and sauté for around 15 minutes until the onions have softened and the remaining ingredients are lightly coloured.

2. Add the orange juice, bay leaf and mixed spice and stir well. Add enough additional water to cover all the vegetables.

3. Bring to a boil then reduce to a simmer and cook for 25 – 30 minutes or until everything is soft.

4. Remove from the heat.

5. Remove and discard the bay leaf. Blend the soup with a blender, adding additional water to make a smooth textured soup.

6. Season to taste using the salt and pepper, then serve with your bread.

7. If you fancy, you can top the soup with croutons or a little extra virgin cold pressed rapeseed oil.



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The Poppin

Autumn is nearly here, and soon, so will the dark nights. We would rather snuggle up in the warm than go out shopping. This is where The Poppin can help.

We have deliveries Monday to Saturday of lovely fresh bread, croissants and pastries.

We would like to encourage customers to place orders, to help us cut down on waste. You can phone in your order, or you can place a permanent weekly order, in the order book. Please place your order before 12pm for delivery the following day.

We also have delicious feta, mozzarella, and parmesan, which can be frozen, to use when you need it.

If there is anything you would like us to stock, for your convenience, please let us know. If we can, we will certainly try to oblige.

It's that spooky time of year and we will have Halloween sweets on sale. Plus to celebrate, we are having another children's pumpkin carving competition. The Masons are kindly donating 10

pumpkins, and the Parish council is providing the prize money. A big thank you to both! You will need to collect your entry form and pumpkin from The Poppin on Friday 22nd October and return your carved pumpkin and entry form by Friday 29th October. They will be judged and ready to fetch on Saturday 30th October. The winners will be posted on The Poppin notice board and also be published on the facebook page (with permission from parents) The three age groups are 3-5 years, 5-10 years and 10-15years. First prize is £10.00, second prize is £5.00, and all other en-tries will receive a bag of sweets. Remember to put your creation outside your front door.

Happy Halloween and keep safe.

Simon Kiener
Chairman, The Poppin Community Shop
01789 721047 – 07843 339762

Long Marston Ladies

Alan Smith gave us an amusing demo on Artisan Breadmaking at Septembers meeting, along with the quiz of his 'day job' Many suggestions came forward including masseuse and hitman!

When the bread came from the oven, piping hot and then buttered, he revealed a piano keyboard, and everyone enjoyed the remaining evening with a sing - along.

This was the last meeting for Sheila who is not only leaving Long Marston but Long Marston Ladies. One of the two founding members who set up and ran, along with Angela, for 10 years this very successful ladies group. All the ladies who have become very dear friends over the years presented Sheila with a water feature and potted plants as a farewell gift. We all wish Sheila every happiness in her new home in Broadway.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday October 6th at 7.30pm. we have Griggsy from Vintage Rouges Hand Crafted Bags, talking about how a Saddle is reimaged into a Bag. Guests and new members always welcome. See website for details www.longmarstonladies.co.uk.

Angela and Sheila

October Scam Update

Parcel delivery texts now the most common con-trick

Millions of mobile users have received the texts that claim a small payment is needed for a package delivery to be completed. But the texts are a front for fraudsters attempting to steal personal banking details. Cybersecurity firm Proofpoint told banks their prevalence was on the rise.



Impersonation

Smishing is a technique that criminals use to target consumers with texts impersonating trusted organisations.

Proofpoint, which provided data for the banking trade body UK Finance, said that over a 90-day period to mid-July, some 53% of these smishing attempts were via delivery texts. This compared with 23% of messages claiming to be from banks or financial institutions. During the most recent 30-day period, some 67% of these scams were delivery text messages.

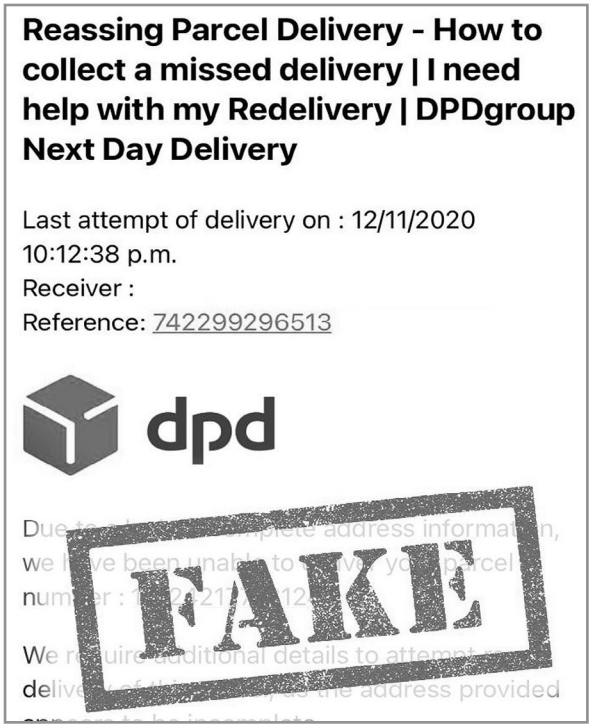
Tricked in a hurry

The text, claiming to be from Royal Mail or a delivery company arrives out of the blue and claims a parcel is awaiting delivery, but a small payment is required.

The message then links to a website mocked up to look like an official site. The page requests personal and payment details, which scammers may use to steal someone's identity, or use to target them with other scams.

Royal Mail said it would not use such texts - unless specifically requested - and would use a grey card instead to tell people if any fee was required.

- To report scams, contact Action Fraud
- To report email scams, contact the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) by emailing report@phishing.gov.uk
- For consumer advice, please call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133



Pumpkintastic facts!

NINE THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT THE PUMPKIN.....



A pumpkin is really a squash, and comes from the same family as the cucumber. If you ever manage to carve a cucumber lantern - you're really very clever indeed!



You can grow pumpkins all over the world - except in Antarctica. So if you live in Antarctica, you'll have to carve something spooky in the snow instead!



Pumpkin carving was taken to the US by the Irish, who started carving turnips for their annual Samhain holiday. They soon found that pumpkins were easier to carve than turnips.



There are over 50 different types of pumpkin. They have such great names as the Spooktacular, the Funny Face and the Munchkin.



The smallest pumpkins can weigh as little as 2lb, whilst the largest you can commonly grow can weigh over 150lbs. You'll need a big garden for that one!



If your pumpkin lantern shrivels up, you can restore it by soaking it overnight in water to rehydrate it. But remember to take out the candle, first.



Did you know that you can get blue, green and white pumpkins, as well as the traditional orange ones? Orange is prettiest though, don't you think?



A world record breaking pumpkin was grown in 1999 by Gerry Checkon of Altoona in Pennsylvania, US. The monster vegetable weighed in at 1,131lb (513kg). Now that's big!



Pumpkins are medicinal, as well as fun and tasty. The seeds are used for de-worming and the pulp is often used to relieve burns.



Shoebox Appeal

COFFEE AND CROISSANT MORNING

Saturday October 9th – 10.30am to 12noon. Long Marston Village Hall.



Raffle. Bring & Buy. Cakes. Croissants. Tea. Coffee. etc.
Come along to learn more about The Teams4U Shoebox Appeal.
Contributions for the Coffee Morning can be left at the Poppin.

SHOEBOX PACKING

Saturday November 13th – 9am to about 12noon. Long Marston Village Hall.



Come along and help us pack the wonderful things you have donated. Children are most welcome. Contributions of all sorts are still needed but especially soap, toothpaste, pens, pencils and notebooks. Thank you Everyone for your continuing support. For many children the shoe boxes we send will be the first present they have received.

Diana (720536) and the Shoebox Team.

Bridge

Any bridge players. We have a small friendly club who meet every Wednesday 7pm at Binton Social Club. Everyone welcome. For more details contact June Beazley on720294, or Jackie Johnson on720328.

Village hall

Diary for October

5th Long Marston Ladies – 7.30pm.

7th Line dancing – 6-7pm. (And every Thursday).

7th The Poppin AGM – 7.30pm.

9th Coffee & Croissant morning – 10.30 – 1pm.

13th W.I – 7.30pm.

18th Parish Council meeting – 7.30pm.

19th Coffee/library – 10 – 11.45am.

22nd Harvest Supper – 7.30 for 8pm.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Long Marston W.I.

Liz Baker came to our September Meeting and gave us an illustrated talk about Ian and her travel experiences in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. Their guides varied from friendly to very brisk and Germanic.

The Caspian Sea had the first oil well in 1876. The oil was so pure it was used untreated and even better, they could successfully drill for it in their gardens and have their own pipeline! Otherwise, life was not so good with a long history of marauding and conquering by their neighbors.

Their home craft is beautifully made with primitive equipment. Russia is a present threat, but they are leaning heavily towards the West.

Our next Meeting is Wednesday 13 October 7.30pm, in the Village Hall when Claire Argent is coming to talk to us about Autism. Visitors always welcome.

Liz Marcuse



Our Baby and Toddler Group runs every Thursday morning during term time from 10:00-11:00 in the Village Hall. The group is free and there is no longer any need to book in advance. The group is a great place to meet new people and lots of fun for little ones – why not pop in and join us? For more details visit the Meon Vale Baby and Toddler Group Facebook page.

Remembrance and Thanksgiving service for the Covid-19 Pandemic

As life begins to return to normal, we would like to offer the opportunity to pause and reflect upon the significance of the last 18 months.

It is a time during which many of us will have experienced grief and loss; many of us have lost loved ones, while others have lost employment, opportunities, time with family or suffered ill physical or mental health. It is also a time that has been marked by kindness and self-sacrifice and many of us will be deeply grateful to key workers, neighbours, community figures and others who have helped us during this time.

To mark this, we would like to invite you to a special service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at St. Swithin's Church, Lower Quinton on Sunday 31 October at 10:30am.

As part of the service, we are inviting people to bring flowers that they will be able to lay at the foot of a cross in the churchyard in tribute to those who have lost their life during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

All details of the service will be published on our Facebook page.

Remembrance Sunday

In addition to the above service, our traditional services of Remembrance will take place on Remembrance Sunday (14 November), where we particularly remember the sacrifices made by our armed forces.

Services will be taking place at 10:45am at both St. Swithin's Church, Lower Quinton and the Church of St. James the Great, Long Marston. All are welcome.

Are you okay?

You may have been feeling stressed, worried, tired or low over the last few months.

Perhaps you're feeling isolated and missing your friends.

You are not alone – it could help to talk.



Warwickshire County Council

Halloween Wordsearch

N	N	R	K	K	O	O	S	R	B	O	A	M	E	D
V	M	I	E	E	O	R	P	A	I	I	G	K	N	R
A	U	B	A	T	S	U	H	V	H	A	G	R	T	U
S	T	E	E	W	S	D	T	S	A	Y	T	R	A	P
Y	U	T	O	S	B	N	K	M	L	M	U	S	E	S
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O	R	R	B	D	L	O	W	M	O	M	U	I	T	E
O	D	E	B	E	N	O	H	R	W	A	M	L	R	E
P	H	A	T	L	C	R	O	D	E	W	P	B	I	E
S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D	K	O	C	T
P	N	G	O	E	Y	C	S	E	N	T	I	G	K	C
S	H	B	H	C	S	A	K	E	E	T	N	P	T	T
T	E	L	E	G	W	I	T	C	H	E	S	U	S	C
R	A	T	N	G	N	I	V	R	A	C	O	I	A	I
S	B	H	R	R	O	G	H	O	S	T	S	E	M	H

GHOSTS
WITCHES
CARVING
PUMPKIN
DRESS UP
TRICK
TREAT
SWEETS
MONSTER
SPIDERWEB
HALLOWEEN
SKELETON
OCTOBER
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Meon Vale
Residents Association

We will be holding a General Meeting of Meon Vale Residents' Association on Thursday 21st October at 7:30pm. The meeting will be online and is open to all Meon Vale residents. Members will be automatically invited to the meeting, but other residents can email meonvaleresidents@gmail.com to request a link. It would be great to see more residents from all around the village at this meeting, so please join us and hear about what we've been up to on your behalf. And let us know of any issues and ideas that you want to share.

Thank you everyone who attended the community consultation event at the Leisure Centre and sports field on Saturday 25th September. The event was organised by St Modwen who were seeking comments on a new playground to be situated within the woodland and proposals for a flexible working space within the village hall. It was an opportunity to meet and chat with various members of St Modwen staff from the planning and management teams; and residents were invited to share views and ideas with them.

There were donkeys, live music, face painting, table tennis and all manner of things to entice residents to the event. Even ice creams and a bouncy castle. An ecologist was also present and provided guided walks along the greenway and the woods. She was able to report on a recent survey of the water vole population in the brook and the surrounding wetland areas in Meon Vale. The exciting news is that the survey identified a large and significant population of water voles (a protected species) in the brook (the one which is parallel to the greenway) – over a hundred!

This is reported to be very significant, inface of county level significance. They also identified nine of Britain's eighteen bat species at Meon Vale, including the very rare Bechstein's bat which is found exclusively in woodland. Such diversity of bat species is unusual in such a small area. The significance of these rare and protected species goes to show how important our green spaces are and what a special place Meon Vale is!

St Modwen is inviting feedback and comments on their proposals until 4th October. But you can share your views and comments relating to the village and our community with the Residents' Association at any time. We will collate and pass them on in one of our regular meetings with St Modwen and the Estate Management Team.

Thank you to Cllr Perteghella who has been working with residents over numerous issues with construction work and planning enforcement over the past few weeks. If you have any issues or complaints relating to the works, please do contact Cllr Perteghella direct on Manuela.pertghella@stratford-dc.gov.uk.

Following the success of last year, we are

planning a spooky Halloween Trail again. Keep an eye on our social media pages and the community noticeboard (Londis) for up-dates on this fearsome event. Just watch out for all those spooky but rare bats! And don't forget to check out our brand new website www.meonvalera.org for news and updates if you dare (it's not actually that terrifying).

Over the past few weeks, MVRA has invited residents to complete a survey to help the Association identify the things that matter most to residents to assist in prioritising our actions and how we can best represent you. Your responses will also help us obtain funding and grants from other organisations.

The survey closed on 30th Sept and so now we are working through your responses and comments. The response rate has been fantastic, so thank you to everyone for completing the survey (online or paper copy). And a big thanks to those who delivered and shared the survey forms. Also, a huge round should go to the lovely Caroline who is collating all the responses – quite a task. We will share the results with residents and with relevant organisations, including St Modwen.

If you would like to take an active role in the development of our new community, you can join the residents' association and volunteer to support our activities. We also have positions on the Executive Committee, which is a fairly large and friendly group. No experience is necessary – we just need Meon Vale residents who want to support our community and have some spare time. If you are interested in joining the Executive Committee, or other volunteering opportunities in the community, please drop a line to meonvaleresidents@gmail.com to arrange an informal chat.

Please register to join our mailing list via eepurl.com/hrl34T to keep up-to-date with news and relevant information or if you are a resident, please do join the Association to show support for what we do.

let's do the **right thing** for Warwickshire

Help your community



Become a Covid-19 Youth Community Champion and help people do the right thing for Warwickshire

Do you want to support individuals in your community to be safe and well?

Training for young people who want to gain valuable skills in active citizenship. Hurry- places are limited

To attend the course you just need to meet the following criteria:

- Live or go to school/college in Warwickshire
- Be between 16- 18 years of age
- Have a passion for learning in an informal and fun environment.

Background info:

The purpose of the course is to offer increased protection to the Warwickshire public, particularly young people, during the Coronavirus pandemic by providing relevant training to young people who are willing to be Covid-19 youth champions. The course offers opportunities to learn more about being active as a responsible and supportive member of your community.

Contacts

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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

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DEFIBRILLATOR

This is located outside the Poppin shop. A 999 call giving the location will provide a code and method of use.

ST JAMES THE GREAT

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01789 751546

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Church Warden Carol Watts

01789 507319

POLICE

Emergency only – 999

Non urgent contact – 101

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

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