



MARCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 166

December 2023



**Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year**



In this issue:

Chairman's Report; District Councillor Report; Marchwood Village Hall;
Marchwood WI; Marchwood Fete; Party in the Park;
Messy Church and lots more ...

The items in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of
Marchwood Parish Council

Published by Marchwood Parish Council

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To advertise in the Marchwood Village News please contact

**Colette on 023 8086 0273 or email:
deputyclerk@marchwoodparish.gov.uk**



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Marchwood Village News Magazine

This Magazine is for the Parish of Marchwood, Southampton, UK. Individual points of view expressed in the contributions are not necessarily those of Marchwood Parish Council, or the Editor. The Marchwood Village News Magazine is published by Print Dimensions for and on behalf of the Parish Council. Full contact details for members of the council can be found on Page 3 of this publication.

Councillor John Case - Chairman

With the changing of the clocks heralding in the darker, colder evenings and the festive season fast approaching, welcome to the winter edition of the Marchwood Village News.

The festive season is traditionally a time to reflect on the past year. It enables us to celebrate all that has been achieved and contemplate all that awaits us in the New Year.

On 8 June, we gathered at our Falklands Memorial to pay our respects to those killed on board the Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram, which were attacked by Argentine fighter jets on 8 June 1982.

Little did we know that we were to learn of the passing of John Robert Kempton, who sadly passed on 29 June 2023. John, or Sid as he was known to his friends, was one of the many people who worked with the Marchwood Parish Council to create a lasting memorial for those who sadly lost their lives and remember all those who served their country in the South Atlantic.

It was Sid that helped to get that immense Falkland Island Rock back to Marchwood.

Sid had a unique personality, and everyone who knew him were deeply saddened that we had lost a great friend. He will not be forgotten by those fortunate to have been in his company. It was a privilege to have had the honour to share a drink and a joke in his company.

We know that our honoured guests, who served with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, appreciate the hard work of our Landscape Team, who tirelessly maintain the memorial to their fallen comrades. Therefore, the Parish Council added a memorial stone to the flower border to mark this anniversary. I hope you agree this is a fitting addition to the Falklands Memorial.

I am delighted to report that we have been allocated £15,000 from the UK Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This Fund aims to enhance our village centre and at the time of writing our Clerk is busy preparing our bid to ensure we can put this funding to good use.

We shall also bid for funds to enhance or develop new low-level infrastructure projects within the village. We have only just received the bidding documents, and the timescales are annoyingly tight, so our Clerk is again very busy preparing our bids as I write my report.



I will provide an update on how we got on in the next edition of the Village News.

Many of you will have noticed signage and the planting of crocus corms near the village centre during the autumn half-term holiday. We were honoured that our village was chosen by the Hythe & Waterside Rotary to participate in planting 4,000 crocus corms in aid of Hythe & Waterside Rotary's Purple4Polio campaign to end polio now and forever.

I want to thank the Marchwood Men's Shed for their help in producing the signage in double-quick time.

So, next Spring, you should see a beautiful purple carpet of crocus blooming in the village.

Rotary clubs help plant millions of purple crocuses yearly to raise awareness for efforts to end polio.

Each polio vaccination can cost as little as 20p, so your donations can save lives, and you can make history. Hopefully, pubs, shops and businesses around Marchwood will be willing to agree to have a collection box to allow you to donate whatever you can afford.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will treble every donation to Rotary, so every £1 will become £3.

I also want to alert you to another campaign with a good cause.

Did you know that rough estimates put the current hedgehog population in England, Wales and Scotland at less than one million, compared to a staggering 30 million in the 1950s?

I was delighted to hear from parishioners that hedgehogs have been spotted in increasing numbers this summer around Marchwood, and the fact that many can travel up to two miles a night means that you have hedgehogs near you.

With Hedgehog numbers in decline and Hedgehog awareness on the rise, there has never been a better time to get involved in Hedgehog conservation. So, let's create a Hedgehog Highway between our homes.

A Hedgehog Highway is a 5-inch gap in a fence and is essential in the battle to prevent the extinction of our endangered spiky friends. This gap allows them access to forage for food and meet mates.

Hedgehog-shaped fence surrounds raise awareness of the plight of Hedgehogs, create a talking point and encourage others to participate in the project. Fence surrounds are made from recycled plastic and can themselves be recycled.

We have fifty Hedgehog Highway surrounds costing just £3. You get a surround and an information leaflet to share with family and friends. Pop into our office to purchase one; your hedgehog will be pleased! Money received is donated to Hedgehog Conservation for every box sold, too!

One of the year's highlights was witnessing the many young people and their families enjoying themselves at the Lloyds Recreation ground during the school holidays. School holidays can be difficult for many families as they try to entertain their children, so I would like to thank The Handy Trust, who bring their creativity to help young families every year. It was great to witness so many happy faces.

Last May saw the election of a new Parish Council. Our new council will face some complex decisions as it comes to terms with the reality of these uncertain times when domestic, municipal and corporate budgets come under even more significant strain to deliver the standard of living and service levels we have all become accustomed to.

If you've never been to a parish council meeting before, you may be forgiven for thinking that parish councillors are a group of (probably older) people who meet now and then in a draughty village hall.

You live in a community where something significant happens frequently.

By becoming a parish councillor, you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support, a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better due to decisions you have helped make can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

Therefore, if you are interested in being co-opted onto the Parish Council to serve our community, don't hesitate to contact the staff at the Parish Office in the Village Hall, and they will provide further information on what to do.

I want to remind everyone that there will be another Party in the Park on Saturday, 24 August next year. Plans are well advanced, and the full line-up of performing bands will be published early in the New Year, together with ticket prices.

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MARCHWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR

Following the elections 4 May 2023, the Parish Council has three vacancies on the Council; the Council may now fill the vacancies by co-option.

If you are interested in serving as a Parish Councillor, please send your application to:
clerk@marchwoodparish.gov.uk

Who is eligible?

Any person over the age of 18 who is a citizen of the United Kingdom, The European Community, or the Commonwealth can be a Councillor if they are an elector in, work in, live in or live within three miles of the area of the local Council.

What will I do if elected?

Raise matters that the Council can consider and formally decide to take action about at meetings.
Attend Council meetings.
Make informed contributions which influence the debate on the business that needs to be decided at those meetings.
Participate in the Council's decision making process, which in itself is subject to strict rules and guidelines.
Represent the Council externally.

Key Points.

- A Councillors' normal term of office is 4 years.
- He/She is the holder of a Public Office and not a volunteer.
- They can receive expenses for their role.
- The main job of a councillor is to participate in the collective decision making process of the Council.
- He/She has no authority to make decisions about Council business on their own.
- A councillor's financial and certain interests in Council business must be transparent.
- He/She is subject to obligations set out in the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.

Any further information or questions please contact the Clerk on the above email.

www.marchwoodparish.gov.uk



Marchwood Parish Council publishes 2,300 copies of the Marchwood Village Newsletter 4 times a year which are delivered to every home in the village of Marchwood.

The Newsletter is also published on our website
www.marchwoodparish.gov.uk

For more information including current advertising costs:

Tel: 02380 860273

Email: office@marchwoodparish.gov.uk

Lloyd Recreation Ground – Price List

5 a side football on 3G

With Lights	£40.00 per hour
Without Lights	£35.00 per hour

5 a side football on 3G Youth (Under 16's)

With Lights	£22.50 per hour
Without Lights	£18.75 per hour

Tennis

Adults – no lights	£5.00 per hour
Adult & Child	£5.00 per hour
Children	£3.00 per hour

Please contact Marchwood Parish Council for booking
023 8086 0273

District Cllr. Patrick Mballa

I am very privileged to serve and represent this community as a Parish and District Councillor and thank you for your support.

The recent water crisis was unprecedented, and I was proud to see our community working together and people helping one another. I volunteered to deliver water to the elderly and most vulnerable in our village and was surprised that many people on the priority list were left stranded without water. My fellow Councillor Lindsey Shelley joined me in the water distributions across the village and checking on the elderly and most vulnerable Residents.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the good people in our village who mobilised to help and check on vulnerable neighbours, this is what makes Marchwood a strong community and a great place to live.

We have so many residents who are not on social media platforms, and I will encourage everyone to be mindful of them and include them in our community engagement activities.

I've reached out to the Southern Water Management board, urging them to reflect on lessons learned from this crisis to make sure this will not happen again. A task force will also be put together at NFDC to set up a crisis management strategy to ensure we are better prepared in the future.

With Christmas fast approaching, this could be a very difficult and lonely time for many people in our community. Let us engage with local organisations like the Handy Trust and the Waterside Christmas Appeal to support them in their works.

I hold monthly community engagement meetings to listen to Residents and help people where I can. The next meetings are on the 25th of November in Eling Oasis Cafe, and the 16th of December in Marchwood Parish Hall from 10am to 11am.

I have allocated my community grants this year to the Men's shed, the Handy trust, Marchwood infants School and Party in the Park etc. to promote and encourage local initiatives which help build a strong and resilient community.

I feel honoured this year to be nominated to lay a wreath on Remembrance Day, to remember the sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedom and protected our way of life.

Thank you for your support and Merry Christmas in advance to you all.



Marchwood Village Hall

Marchwood Community Association

Charity no: 1049276

There are so many different classes/ activities going on here at the Village Hall. From Yoga classes to Line Dancing and Solid Silver club for over 60's to Marchwood Tots. Please check out our venue for class times and details, or e-mail for more information.

Marchwood Tots is every Thursday morning, term time, 9.30am-11.00am. Cost is £1.70 per. child.

Solid Silver Club is on the second Wednesday of every month at 2.00pm-3.30pm. Cost £2.00 per. person.

Upcoming Events:

"Frozen Festive Fun! Join your favourite Frozen sisters on Saturday 16th December from 10am - 12pm at Marchwood Village Hall, for a Christmas Party like no other! Expect Singalongs, Mini Disco, Festive Food, Face Glitter, Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, and even Crafts provided by The Mini Crafters Club! For more information, follow our socials @singandsparkle, or email us at enquiries@singandsparkle.com. Do you wanna build a snowman?"

Saturday 20th January 2024

GoGa

A fun yoga class with Goats!

To book please contact hello@muckybucketfarm.co.uk

To book your party or to hire the hall please contact Alli on info@marchwoodvillagehall.co.uk /023 8066 7927.

Understand how your Council works.

All local authorities are established by legislation and work within a statutory framework. Legislation requires all local authorities except parish and towns councils to discharge certain essential functions relating to the provision of everyday services, facilities and amenities that people and businesses in their areas depend on. For example in England district or unitary authorities have waste collections, highway and traffic regulations.

Many parts of England have 3 tiers of local government:

- county councils
- district, borough
- parish/town councils

In some parts of the country, there's just 1 (unitary) tier of local government providing all the local services. The 3 main types of unitary council are:

- unitary authorities in shire areas
- London boroughs
- metropolitan boroughs

County councils

These are responsible for services across the whole of a county, like:

- education
- transport/highways
- planning
- fire and public safety
- social care
- libraries
- waste management
- trading standards

District, borough and city councils

These cover a smaller area than county councils. They're usually responsible for services like:

- rubbish collection
- recycling
- Council Tax collections
- housing
- planning applications
- tourism

Unitary authorities and London and metropolitan boroughs

In some parts of the country, 1 tier of local government provides all the local services listed above.

In London and metropolitan areas some services, like fire, police and public transport, are provided through 'joint authorities' (in London by the Greater London Authority).

Parish, community and town councils

These operate at a level below district and borough councils.

- allotments
- public clocks
- bus shelters
- community centres
- play areas and play equipment
- grants to help local organisations
- open spaces (owned by the Council).

They also have the power to issue fixed penalty fines for things like:

- litter
- graffiti
- fly posting
- dog offences

The full council (a meeting of all council members) is responsible for all decisions. But in practice, most of the work is given to smaller groups of councillors or council officers (paid staff).

Every council must publish:

- details of when key decisions will be taken
- papers of meetings – at least 5/3 working days beforehand
- minutes of meetings – showing the decisions that were made

You can view council meeting agendas, minutes and reports on your council's website.

You can also attend most council meetings, for further information of our meetings and what we do go to www.marchwoodparish.gov.uk

Parish Council Officers & Information:

Mrs Tina Dudley – Clerk to the Council
 Mrs Colette Cockeram – Deputy Clerk to the Council
 Mrs Angie Woodward – Responsible Finance Officer

Mr Tony Lavington – Amenities, Maintenance & Facilities Supervisor
 Mr Dave Bartlett – Groundsman
 Mr Rob Cochrane – Groundsman

Marchwood Village Hall
 Village Centre
 Marchwood
 SO40 4SX

Phone: 023 8086 0273
 Website: marchwoodparish.gov.uk
 Email: office@marchwoodparish.gov.uk

Village News:

Marchwood Village News is published quarterly and delivered via volunteers to all households in the Parish. Publications are – March / June / September and December.
 Deadline for the next edition (March 2024) will be 31st January 2024

If you would like to contribute to your village magazine, please let us have your articles, adverts, poems, local news, events or local issues by this date.

Contact Colette on 023 8086 0273 or email deputyclerk@marchwoodparish.gov.uk

A calendar of meetings for Marchwood Parish Council and its committees 2024/25

A calendar of meetings for Marchwood Parish Council and its committees January 2024 – March 2025

8 January	Planning
5 February	Planning
12 February	Amenities
19 February	Policy & Resources
4 March	Planning
11 March	Parish Council
8 April	Planning
15 April	Amenities
22 April	Policy & Resources
29 April	Annual Parish Meeting*
13 May	Planning
20 May	Annual Council Meeting
29 May	AGM of the Lloyd Recreation Ground Trust (Wed)
10 June	Planning
17 June	Amenities
24 June	Policy & Resources
1 July	Planning
22 July	Parish Council
2 September	Planning
9 September	Amenities
16 September	Parish Council
23 September	Policy & Resources
30 September	Planning
4 November	Planning
11 November	Amenities
18 November	Policy & Resources
2 December	Planning
18 December	Parish Council
13 January 2025	Planning
20 January 2025	Policy & Resources
17 February 2025	Planning
24 February 2025	Parish Council
3 March 2025	Amenities
17 March 2025	Planning
24 March 2025	Policy & Resources

Meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees are normally held in the Pine Room of Marchwood Village Hall, unless otherwise stated on the notice of agenda they commence at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to attend the meetings. Please look out for our next agenda on the parish notice boards.

* Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of the electorate and is not a Parish Council meeting.



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Councillor Nigel Buckett – Chairman of the Amenities Committee

Hello, I am the new Chairman of the Marchwood Parish Council Amenities Committee, and I would like to tell you more about the work carried out by the Council across our wealth of common land, recreation areas and buildings.



Marchwood has over 80 acres of grounds to look after, and soon this will increase significantly with the addition of Oak Park to our portfolio, creating a maintainable area significantly larger than most other villages in the county. We have a team of three ground maintenance staff, led by Tony Lavington, who do a sterling job in cutting grass, looking after the many trees on our land, repairing fences and not least removing our canine friend's output. They also look after the orchard, which can be found on the open land behind the village center next to the fitness training equipment. This is currently fenced off due to damage to the young trees, but as these mature we hope to open the area for the village to enjoy.

Other picturesque areas managed by our team are Cork Field, off Normandy Way, and Crooked Hayes Copse, off Oakland Drive behind Crooked Hayes Close. Both of these areas have a strong input from the Marchwood Conservation Volunteer group, and are havens for wildflowers, butterflies and indigenous wildlife. Both areas have seating and walks suitable for all, in fact in Marchwood there are over 5 miles of graveled pathways to take advantage of for your enjoyment and exercise. The council is currently working with NFDC in making improvements to these public rights of way in the next year, also we hope to produce a map of these pathways so everyone can navigate their way around this village. Besides all of this we also have the Lloyds Recreation Ground, which has the local Scout and Guides Headquarters, our maintenance workshop, the Man shed and youth center, as well as the hireable football, 5-a-side pitches, and tennis court.

All of this must be maintained for the enjoyment of our village community, and unfortunately nature doesn't always work to the benefit of our budget, which is the Council's largest expenditure. We have some contingency funds, but we also have to deal with storm damage, ash die back, old and rotting trees, some of which is done by our Council team, and some by external contractors. Much of this cannot be built into our financial policies, so we are creating a 5-year plan and budget to make these natural emergencies easier to manage financially.

Finally, many residents of the village ask regarding the maintenance of paths, highways, hedges and verges, which are not owned or maintained by the Parish Council, and I fully realise that this can be confusing. Therefore, we aim for next late spring/summer, to restart walks around the village, led by Tony Lavington, who will explain what belongs and is maintained by Marchwood Parish Council, New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council, which will help to clear up the confusion. These will be advertised in this newsletter and on noticeboards.

We are working hard for you so that we all have a wonderful village to enjoy.



Purple4Polio

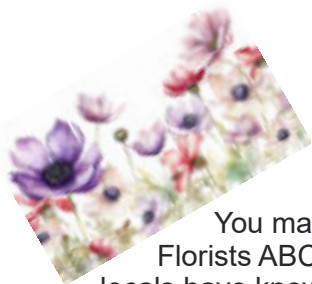
Parents with children, residents, Councillors and officers along with Marchwood ground staff came along with volunteers from the Hythe & Waterside Rotary Club who kindly donated 4000 Crocus in aid of Polio and gathered this morning on the green opposite The Roebuck to bury the bulbs ready for the summer.

We were very lucky with the weather and the ground was nice and soft for the many holes that had to be made for each individual bulb.

Beautiful cupcakes were donated by Lisa who makes cakes for the Marchwood Men Shed in the purple colour to represent the Charity.

If you would like to make a donation to this charity the Parish Council have a bucket in the office – please pop in Monday to Friday between 9am and 12pm.





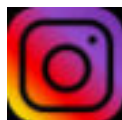
You may have noticed some changes to the village Florists ABC flowers and balloons this year , Many of the locals have known and used Carol for many years, but as she heads towards a well-deserved retirement (Try telling Carol that, she's never too far from the shop thank goodness) she is delighted to hand the reins over Zoe and her family to continue the business that she has so lovingly built over the past 25+ years .

Many of you have seen the makeover that is going on at the shop and thank you for all the positive comments and the support to both Zoe and Carol for the changes.

As the business continues to grow you will be pleased to know that as well as continuing the amazing Floristry service providing those lovely bouquets and sympathy tributes for the local community, we will be stocking more items inside including candles , gifts, confectionery cards, and not forgetting balloons, many of which items will be from small independent businesses within the Hythe Waterside, & New Forest area.

We have also recently secured a members spot with the well-known Interflora service which lots of local people and businesses use.

Thank You to all the loyal customers and friends from over the years, we look forward to Many more years of 'the new ' ABC Florists.



ABC Florists

02380 663717 or 07769902350

Flower Arrangements – Bouquets -
Sympathy Flowers – Balloons

3 Main Road, Marchwood,
Southampton SO40 4UZ

www.abcflowersandballoons.co.uk

abcflowers59@yahoo.co.uk

*Look out for our Christmas Potted Trees -
Wreaths - Gifts - Cards*



***** SAVE THE DATE *****

Marchwood Party in the Park

Saturday 24th August 2024



Headliners: Miami Vibe

Also playing ..

Soul Catchers

Snake Oil : The Vinyl Beats

And more to come ...

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ELECTRICS

Please tidy up after your dog

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 makes it an offence (subject to a £1000 fine) for a dog walker not to remove and correctly dispose of their dog's faeces from land to which the public have access. In addition to being illegal, dog mess in public places is unpleasant to see, smell or tread in, and it may also carry numerous diseases which can affect other dogs and also humans. Most notably it is the source of a disease called Toxocariasis, which is caused by roundworm. The microscopic roundworm eggs can cause blindness, asthma, epilepsy, and many other ailments. Young children are the most likely to come into contact with dog faeces, as they often play near the ground where their hands may touch the ground and then their eyes and mouth.

Always take sufficient plastic bags with you when you walk your dog, and ensure the used bags are sealed before placing them into a dog waste bin or dispose of these bags at home.

Ideally you can train your dog to defecate in your own garden; you can even buy dog toilets to put in your garden which are an environmentally friendly way to dispose of dog waste efficiently.



County Councillor David Harrison

Some of you may know that I have had a serious problem for most of the year, a herniated disc that causes severe sciatica. It has been something of a challenge, doing as much of my job as a County Councillor as I can. Thank goodness for online meetings, e-mail and social media ! Of course, I am just one of nearly 8 million people on an NHS waiting list hoping that I can be fixed sooner rather than later.



Some things haven't changed very much. Hampshire County Council is struggling to balance the books as a result of reduced government funding and ever greater financial pressures, especially the demand for adult social care where needs are increasing and the costs are rising. There was a hope that the County Council would be able to enter into a special deal with government, combining with other local authorities, which would have provided more funding, but the whole thing has collapsed.

There is, as I write this, a consultation with the public as to how cuts can best be made. The County Council has a statutory duty to balance the books. After all the years of cut backs with austerity. There probably isn't much more scope for reducing back office costs, so the prospect of losing front line services like Household Waste recycling Centres, or School Crossing Patrol Officers looms closer.

The County has received a welcome boost of funding for roads maintenance. However, this is only likely to address the short term issue of fixing pot holes rather than helping address the need for improved substantial investment of a kind that will stop road surfaces deteriorating so quickly.

The government funding "Transforming Cities " is being used to improve walking and cycling links up and down the Waterside, including the long awaited traffic light controlled crossing at the junction of Trotts Lane / Bury road, which will be completed by next Spring. Similarly, there is some work being undertaken to improve bus journey times, mainly through Totton. Of course, absolutely nobody welcomes the delays that are caused during roadworks, especially following the long delays experienced from the Redbridge flyover works.

No news to report as yet with regard to the proposed Waterside Passenger rail service. Some speculate that the cancelling of much of the HS2 project may mean investment locally, but I am not holding my breath ! I have been providing grant assistance to community projects in Totton and Marchwood. I have granted a sum of £900 to support Marchwood's Party in the Park next year".

If there is something that you would like me to consider, do get in touch.

My e-mail address is david.harrison@hants.gov.uk.

Fawley RFC Clubhouse Open!

Fawley RFC have been sharing facilities since 1935 but last month celebrated the opening of their new clubhouse, the building of which was led by long-serving club member Paul Bisgrove.

The afternoon kicked off with a showcase of rugby from our age grade sides; girls and boys, ages 6 to 16 years, Colts, Walking and Womens' rugby.

The clubhouse was officially opened with Hampshire RFU President Dr Ed Neville in attendance as Fawley Parish Councillor Alan Alvey cut the ribbon. Jamie Burton from NFDC and Jill Tomlin from Dibden Allotments Fund, who were both instrumental in obtaining significant grants for the club, joined us for the celebrations.

If you're looking for a venue for your next party, meeting or event, look no further! Our brand-new clubhouse facilities are also available for hire!

Hire is exclusively available to Fawley RFC club members. We have kitchen facilities, a licensed bar, toilets and around 123 square metres of space for you to make use of.

For more information about booking or to find out how to become a member, contact Amanda via bookings@fawleyrfc.co.uk. New members are always welcome!



District Councillor Richard Young.

I am delighted to advise that alongside selected New Forest communities Marchwood has been awarded £15,000 by NFDC from the governments Shared Prosperity Fund, having been identified as a priority centre (away from the usual tourist spots) for regeneration investment. Going forwards I will be working alongside NFDC officers and the portfolio holder in engaging with Marchwood Parish Council on potential projects which this funding could be utilised for in and around the area of the village centre. Any agreed projects will need to be completed by March 2025.



Alongside Cllr Mballa it was a privilege to be invited to officially open the rescheduled 2023 Marchwood Village fete on 23rd September. The event was very well attended and supported by the wider community with a range of community groups, charities, local businesses, and voluntary groups hosting stalls. A variety of local interest groups also provided welcome entertainment in the fete arena during the occasion. The tasty chicken wraps cooked and sold by members of our Fijian community group were a particular personal highlight. I wish to thank everyone who played their part in making the day such a success, particularly the members of the fete committee, without whom there would not be a fete.

I also recently attended a get together of "Singing With Friends", organised and hosted by Marchwood WI. I even joined in singing a few numbers myself! Meeting at Marchwood Village Hall under the musical direction of John Bell (my former headmaster at Junior School!) they sing a variety of popular songs in a friendly and inclusive setting. These entirely free sessions (with some modest help from my Cllr grant budget) are particularly aimed at supporting residents with dementia or whom may be feeling isolated and the sessions are thankfully proving highly popular.

In conclusion I also wanted to touch on the recent water supply outage. I look forward to playing my part in ensuring that lessons are learned, those responsible are held to account, and that those inconvenienced are properly compensated. During the incident itself I spent many hours right from the outset on the Thurs evening helping establish a bottled water station in Marchwood, moving on to then distributing bottled water kindly donated by Sunnyfields Farm, and when the incident concluded I shifted to aiding a local charity to collect unwanted bottled water to benefit the less fortunate. The key take away for me is how brilliantly supportive our community are of one another, and to all involved you have my sincere thanks and gratitude.

As always I can be reached either by emailing richard.young@nfdc.gov.uk or searching "Councillor Richard Young" on Facebook.

May I wish you and your families a happy and healthy Christmas.

New Forest District Council

Tel: [02380 285000](tel:02380285000)

District Councillor for Marchwood & Eling Ward

richard.young@nfdc.gov.uk

(Very Cheesy) Cheese Biscuits by Judy Saxby

Sometimes I think there is a need for a cheese biscuit. These are nicely cheesy.

Ingredients

200g/7 oz cold unsalted/salted (up to you, I rarely have unsalted) **butter**, cut into small chunks

200g/7 oz **plain flour** (plus a little extra for flouring)

Large pinch of **salt**

Large pinch of **cayenne pepper**

2 teaspoons of **mustard powder**

100g/3 1/2 oz finely grated **mature/extra mature cheddar**

100g/3 1/2 oz finely grated **parmesan**, or similar vegetarian hard cheese if you prefer plus a little extra.

1 **egg**, beaten

What you do next....

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4

Place the **butter** and **flour** into the bowl of a food processor with the **salt**, **cayenne**, **mustard powder** and **cheeses**.

Process together...now, I pulsed this so as not to over blend...(which it did, a bit...but that doesn't matter)

Of course you can rub the **butter** into the flour by hand (fingertips) and then add the rest of the **ingredients** and bind by hand it will come together without the need of egg or water.

Wrap the biscuit dough in cling film and chill in the fridge for at least half an hour.

Lightly flour your working surface with flour and gently roll the chilled biscuit dough out to about 5mm (give or take)

Using a 2 1/2 inch cutter, fluted or plain, cut into as many biscuits as you can pressing together the offcuts and re-rolling until the dough is used up, placing on a lined baking tray as you go.

Brush with beaten **egg** and sprinkle with the extra **parmesan**.

Bake for around 12 to 15 mins until golden... I swapped trays during cooking for even baking (but that's just my oven)

This makes a multitude of biscuits, they are lovely, moreish and quite short (that is a technical cooking term) Obviously if you don't want to make so many, just halve the ingredients...I'll leave you to do the maths.

Marchwood Litter Pickers

Thank you to everyone who came to the October litter pick. 25 volunteers collected 17 black sacks full. We also collected a heavy bag full of crushed cans to raise money for Hampshire Air Ambulance.

As always, we had an unusual item competition, which was won by Elliot who found 'half an elf'!

Our next pick will be on Saturday 13th January, meeting at 10am behind the church. As usual, all equipment will be provided, and I look forward to seeing everyone there. Please contact me at gary_james_wright@hotmail.co.uk to find out more, or if you want me to add you to the mailing list.



Marchwood Men's Shed

It's been a busy few months for the Men's Shed. We've been making an outdoor library for Mulberry pre-school, a storage unit for St. John's Church, completing maintenance on the shed itself and making display boards to help promote the Purple4Polio crocus planting event.



We also had our first stall at Marchwood Fete, selling some items that we'd made, running a tombola and taking orders. We were all very pleasantly surprised at how well our items were received. We sold everything and had a very full order book, making over £700 for our charity. This money will help us to keep the shed running and to allow us to keep working on the community projects that the members enjoy. It was great to meet and chat to people at the fete too.

At the time of writing, we have just had our first 'birthday' and are busy preparing accounts and getting ready for our first AGM. It has been a time to reflect on how much we've achieved in our first year, and we're looking forward to seeing what the next year has in store for Marchwood Men's Shed.



We meet on a Wednesday afternoon, from 13:30 at the Lloyd Recreation ground. The shed is open to all, whether you want to get involved in the hands-on projects, or just meet up for a chat and a coffee, it would be great to see you. Take a look at our website for more information www.marchwoodmensshed.org or drop us an email marchwoodmensshed@gmail.com

Marchwood Conservation Volunteers

At the time of writing, we have just completed the annual meadow cut and rake at Cork Field. As the mechanical meadow cutter broke down, much of the cut was done by hand with scythes and sickles. I think it's fair to say that all those involved were pleased when we'd finished!

If anyone is interested in getting involved, please contact Helen at vestys2003@yahoo.co.uk



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Applemore Health and leisure centre,

Marchwood Scout Hut



Marchwood WI Winter

Sing, sing a song!

Back in the Summer, our resident Choir Master, **John Bell**...suggested that our **Marchwood WI Choir** could be the nucleus of a group called **"Singing with Friends"**. This singing group exists for people living with dementia and their carers, people who are retired, missing companionship or those who just love a good sing!

Well, this group has gone from strength to strength after it's September inaugural meeting and apart from 10 to 15 WI members every week, we now have up to 20 "guests"...amazing...what is more amazing is that this group now has a repertoire (the technical term) of 60 songs...these range from early twentieth century to Elvis and the Beatles. It is surprising how many songs we didn't know we knew!

There is nothing like singing to lift the spirits, and this weekly "singalong" does just that.

John must be thanked for implementing his idea and keeping us all entertained on Monday mornings.

Thanks of course also to the **Waterside Community Fund** (formerly the Dibden Allotments Fund) for funding the first years rent and refreshments at the Village Hall and a grant from Councillor **Rich Young**, which purchased the ever increasing song folders.

"Singing with friends" meets on Monday mornings in **Marchwood Village Hall** from 10 to 11...with refreshments!



Never too Old!

I remember my Mum saying "you are never too old to learn" and that is certainly true of our WI members...and no matter how much crafting knowledge they have...there is always room for more!

Sometime our WI meetings are **"homegrown"** i.e. organised and run by our members instead of having a speaker...and once a year we share our crafty knowledge.

At the October meeting, four of us taught various crafts, ostensibly for people to try something new...we had Quilling, Fabric Bauble making, Iris Folding and 3D Pop-up Card making...much hilarity ensued and the results were so successful, that many members were inspired to "have a go" at home.



Our WI has been in **Marchwood** for **102 years!!**

This is an incredible achievement and testament to our close village community atmosphere.

Marchwood is now part of the "**Forestside**" group of WI's , an amalgamation of six local groups, **Ashurst**, **Copythorne** and **Bramshaw** from the **Forest** area and **Marchwood**, **Langley** and **Holbury Manor** from the **Waterside** area.

We meet twice yearly as a group , but also have a **Twelfth Night** meeting on the afternoon of January 5th or thereabouts, this is instead of the historic Carol Concert and consists usually of individual "home grown" entertainment, from all six WI's and an auction...this time a "Jarbola".

The meetings all take place at Colbury Hall, it being a good central meeting place.

This year **Marchwood WI Choir** will be our contribution to the "entertainment"...Photos to follow in the next edition of the Village News.

We absolutely love our Choir meetings...such a lot of fun...John hopes to extend the WI Choir repertoire to a hundred songs...phew!!!

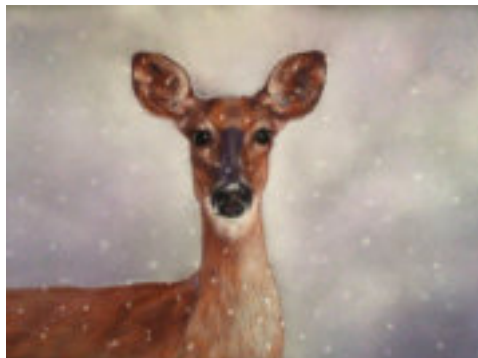
Marchwood WI members are involved in all aspects of village life and the also the wider Waterside community.

It is a wonderful women's group to belong to and a place to make new, valued and long term friends, in fact some of our new members joined after coming along to the "Singing with friends" group and now are in our Marchwood WI Choir!

Our programme is always varied and interesting and available on the parish notice boards...we are also digital (of course!) and have a **FaceBook** page and a **WhatsApp** group for members!

We meet at 7.15 p.m.on the second Tuesday of the month (except August) in Marchwood Village Hallwe would love to see you there!

Finally we send our warmest thoughts and best wishes for **Christmas** and the **New Year** to you all.



Back in September Marchwood Fete turned out to be a fantastic day with great weather and lots of people.

Record numbers visited us in our Messy Church venue kindly provided by Marchwood Scouts. Hopefully it gave families a good idea of the sort of activities we do at Messy Church.



On October 31st we held our annual Light Party in the Village Hall. This is a free party for all the family where we play lots of games, enjoy food, make a special craft and then leave with a big bag of sweets. The idea is to celebrate light rather than dark.

Our next event will be Messy Christingle which will take place in St John's Church on December 21st at 3pm. We look forward to seeing you there.



Messy Church is a collaboration of the three churches in Marchwood and takes place around three or four times a year. It's a time of games, craft, celebration and a positive message; appealing mostly to children of infant and junior school age and their families.

For more information about Messy Church see: www.messychurch.org.uk or contact messychurchmarchwood@gmail.com



The Songwriter's Gallery:
Lizzie and Lee Dasdall-Dove
 Original music
5 December, 8pm
£10



The Captain Calamity
Santamime Adventure
 Family entertainment
18 December, 11am/1.30pm/4pm
£31 / £11 / £7.50



KINKED ALIVE!
 The Kinks
 tribute show
7 December, 7.30pm
£16 / £14



Tom Gregory with The
Dust & Mischief Band
 Folk-infused winter songs
19 December, 7.45pm
£16 / £14 / £12

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The Handy Trust are a full youth support service operating in the Waterside area. If you would like to find out more about us and/or sign-up to our monthly newsletter, scan the QR code below or go to thehandytrust.co.uk.

Marchwood youth club evening at Marchwood hub will return every Monday 6-7:30pm on the 15th January. The drop-in for teenagers 13-18 7:30 to 8:30pm – you can come by for some advice, something to eat, or just a safe place to hang out! For more information on this, or any of the other work we do, have a look at our website and/or socials.



The Handy Trust



@HandyTrust



thehandytrust



ST JOHN THE APOSTLE MARCHWOOD PARISH CHURCH

All enquiries regarding baptisms, weddings and
funerals please contact Simon **023 8086 1496**
simon.hones@btinternet.com

For hall bookings please contact Rosemary on **023 8066 9254**

Weekly Services all are welcome

Sunday 10am **Parish Communion**— all but the last Sunday in the month

Sunday 10am **Village Praise** last Sunday of the month

Thursday 9am **Holy Communion** – a quiet short service

Thursday 10.30am **Pop in** – Church Hall open for coffee and a chat

Dear Friends,

As we begin to focus on Christmas those of us who are organised will be buying presents for our loved ones. The shops have been encouraging us for weeks to “get into the mood”, which, in their terms, means spending a lot of money on things to give.

The origins of this tradition are many, but the main one is that the Magi who visited the infant Jesus brought gifts, as we read in Matthew, chapter 2. The term “wise men” is not part of the Bible story, but a crude attempt to explain who they were. In the ancient world people would understand who these Magi were. Some of my feminist friends would reject the translation Wise Men as a contradiction in terms. The Magi were a revered class of political advisers and sages who were a necessary part of most Eastern courts. Their value came from generations of good advice to rulers, coupled with a learning based on astrology. They sought to predict what was happening in this world by observing the stars and planets and interpreting that evidence according to traditions handed down. Unlike modern astronomers, they were not really concerned with what the heavenly bodies actually were, but what their positions in the sky signified. We wouldn't today regard their studies as science, but closer to religion and metaphysics.

The ones in the Bible account ‘came from the East’. Marco Polo reports that a village in Northern Iran claimed to be their starting point, and that view is still held there. From their studies, they interpreted the appearance of a bright new event in the heavens as foretelling the birth of a new kind of king in Judah, and so they set off to meet this king, bringing gifts that matched their understanding:

gold signifying a king; frankincense because they believed the king would have a priestly role –linking mankind with God; and myrrh which was used in burials, because they foresaw his death as very important. The Bible doesn't say how many of them there were. The threefold gifts are the only number in the account.

The Christmas card industry and old carols give us other unsubstantiated ideas: no camels are mentioned; they did not follow the star, either, because they saw it ‘in the East’. If they had followed it they would ended up in China, and they knew where Judah was, anyway. Modern astronomers think this new bright star was probably an alignment of Jupiter with other planets as calculations show happened late in Herod's reign, and the moving star that stopped over Bethlehem could have been a comet which scientists say appeared about that time. Although they were highly regarded in society, we read that when the Magi found Jesus ‘they fell and worshipped Him’, so maybe they were wise men.

Their symbolic gifts mirrored the greatest gift which God was giving to humanity. He was becoming a human in order to save us from the unavoidable result of our disobedience to Him: the myriad of omissions and commissions in our attitudes, words and deeds that make us so very much less than perfect. Our sins will deny us entry into God's presence unless they're dealt with and compensation made. Because God loves us, He dealt with my sin and yours in the only way that would work: death. Jesus came to die (myrrh) which is what our disobedience required, so

that we would have the option to be treated as perfect, as He is. There's no way we can undo the things we have done and (will do), but Jesus gave His destiny for us by taking what was due to us. I call it the Divine Swap, but posher folks call it Substitutory Atonement.

God's gift of Jesus is God's gift of heaven, but because He loves us, He does not force that on us. He leaves us with the choice whether to accept what He offers. Do nothing, and we will not experience paradise. We would be very disappointed if our loved ones ignored or rejected our carefully chosen Christmas presents, but they have that choice. It's the same with God's gift. He wants us to choose to accept salvation, because only He knows how wonderful His life is. That's why He wants us to make the best choice and accept His Big Gift.

Have a lovely Christmas!

Simon



Marchwood 'CARNIVAL' FETE

An afternoon of family fun was had by everyone attending the village fete on 23rd September. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our village community.

The fete was opened by our new New Forest District Councillors, **Patrick Mballa** and **Richard Young**, followed by our fancy-dress parade, with participants dressed in brightly coloured carnival costumes. Toy store vouchers were awarded to the winners.



We had some great entertainment from **Panatical Steel Band**, playing vibrant carnival tunes. Equally joyous was **Marchwood Military Wives Choir** who performed some amazing choral arrangements, even blending two very well-known songs together for their finale. **Benny Balloon** kept all the children happy with lots of magic, comedy and amazing balloon models.



We were also treated to lively performances by the very talented young people of **Shine Performing Arts**, **Stacey T White's School of Dance** and **MB Twirlstars**, and a demonstration from **New Forest Martial Arts**, with members of all ages showing us a number of different martial arts disciplines.

Thank you to all of you for showcasing your talents.

Interspersed between the entertainment, a number of children's races took place in the arena, including running, skipping and obstacles, where free ice creams were the prizes of the afternoon!



We had a brilliant turn out from local churches, from schools, pre-schools, groups, societies and small businesses and were fully booked up for stalls.

As ever there was a wonderful choice of food and drink, from our wonderful WI with their tea and cakes, the Hythe Sea Scouts, who very graciously stepped in at the last minute to help us out with a BBQ. Fijian food from our local military community, confectionery, artisan coffee, a bar from Vibrant Forest Brewery and more! Thank you to all of them for their part in the success of the fete.



Our Best
in Show
Champion!



Completing the afternoon was our fun dog show, which was run by The Family Dog Club where participants competed to be the Canine King and Queen, best rescue and waggiest tail. Prize winners were given a generous gift of doggy goodies from The Healthy Pet Store - thank you to all of them.

None of this would have been possible without our Sponsors for this year and thanks go to them and all the local businesses for their support and generous donations of raffle prizes.



As the fete was held in late September this year and because we already have a fabulous Party in the Park event planned for the village in August 2024, (thank you to Marchwood Parish Council for this), the fete steering group have decided to take a break for 2024 and to hold the next fete in July 2025.

As always these events cannot run without volunteers, both on the organising committee and on the day. The fete is organised by a small handful of people, who put in a lot of work to make it the successful event that it is. Having more hands to spread the load will always be welcome.

If you feel that you could be one of those people and join us for the planning of 2025, (which will start in September 2024), then please contact marchwoodfete@gmail.com or contact us through www.facebook.com/marchwoodfete

For now, and as we approach Christmas 2023 may we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and see you in 2025!

Marchwood Fete Steering Group.



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'How many sleeps now till Christmas?' Yes, it's that time of year again. The kids are excited; the blare of *I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day* assaults our ear-drums as we pass through the West Quay Shopping Centre, and a multitude of Amazon delivery drivers are working overtime to bring us those much anticipated presents we ordered.

On that very first Christmas day, things were rather different. The promise of a Saviour who would deliver us from the tyranny of evil had been announced at the beginning of time. The Old Testament prophets had been reminding people of this, and elaborating on the nature of the Messiah (Sent One) for centuries. Yet, when the day of Jesus' birth actually arrived, few people were expecting it. The shepherds were terrified by the appearance of the angels, but keen to see for themselves the baby they'd been told about, and spread the news. The Wise Men were alerted to the news by a star and set off on their journey, only to find, on reaching Jerusalem, that King Herod knew nothing of the event.

Two thousand or so years later, we have the privilege of having the entire story written down for us in the Bible. Yet for many people, the birth of a Saviour will be the last thing on their minds as Christmas approaches.

Why not take time this year to consider the real meaning of Christmas?

The Village Carol service at St Johns church will be held on Sunday 17th December with the three village churches taking part to retell the Christmas story.

The Gospel Church Carols by Candlelight Service will take place on 24th December at 6 pm in our Church building in Long Lane. You are most welcome to join us.

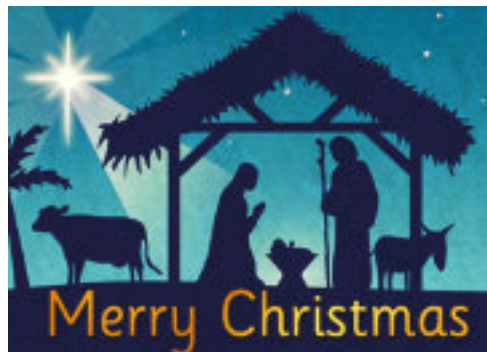
You may also be interested in the following, details of which can be found on our website: www.gospelchurchmarchwood.org.uk.

Sunday 10.30: Morning Worship (Held at the Infant School in Twiggs Lane during term time, or at the Church Building in Long Lane during School holidays.)

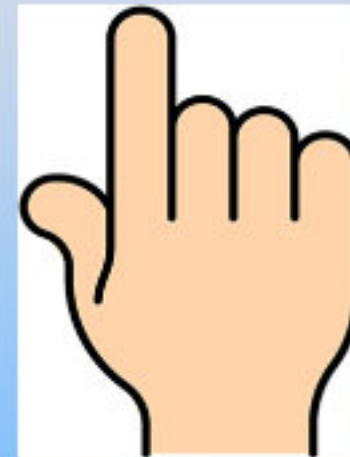
Tuesday 10.30 – 12.30: Connect Café (Hot drinks and homemade cakes for all.)

Wednesday 10.30 – 11.30: Tots, Tales & Tunes (Babies & Pre-schoolers with their parents/carers.)

Friday 6.00 – 7.30: Beans Club (Activities and meal for families.)



***Needs
YOU!***



When we resume for 2025 we will be needing several new members for the Fete Steering Group, including a new Chair person. Sadly, without a Chair, the group cannot function and there can be no village fete.

If you feel that this could be you, you can be involved as much or as little as you like. You will be fully supported in whatever capacity you choose. Everyone in our friendly group takes on tasks that match their own strengths. Meetings are held once a month.

*If you would like more information or to volunteer please e-mail marchwoodfete@gmail.com
We would love to hear from you!*

Useful Contact Numbers

Emergencies

Police (non emergency service)	101
British Transport Police	0800 40 50 40
Floodline	0800 80 70 60
Gas Leaks	0800 111 999
Southern Electric	0800 9800420
Southern Water	0330303 0368

Council

Hampshire County Council	0300 555 1375
National Park Authority	01590 646600
New Forest District Council	023 8028 5000
Marchwood Parish Council	023 8086 0273

Helplines

Age Concern	023 8084 1199
Appletree Careline	023 8028 5523
Childline (NSPCC)	0800 11 11
National Rail Enquiries	0845 748 4950
NHS 111 Service	111
Samaritans	0845 790 90 90
Silver Line	0800 4708090

Schools

Marchwood C of E Infant School	023 8086 8819
Marchwood Junior School	023 8086 3105
Applemore College	023 8084 8804
Noadswood School	023 8084 0025
Hounsdown School	023 8086 2981

Useful Numbers

Totton/Applemore Leisure Centre	0845 659 0845
Household Waste Recycling	023 8086 5178
Marchwood Doctors	023 8087 1233
Marchwood Village Hall	023 8066 7927
Marchwood Youth Worker	07808 860 850

All numbers and details listed above are correct at the time of going to press. If any are incorrect please let us know via email: deputyclerk@marchwoodparish.gov.uk Thank you.