



MARCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 173



In this Issue

Chairman's Report, District and County Councillor, Marchwood Christmas Fayre,

Marchwood Twinning Association, Southampton FC, Marchwood Music Festival & Fun Day.

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Marchwood Village News

This magazine is for the parishioners of Marchwood. Individual points of view expressed are not necessarily those of the Parish Council or the editor.

If you would like to contribute an article for the village news please telephone:

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John Case

Chairman's Report



Welcome to the winter edition of the *Marchwood Village News*.

I cannot believe there are only a few weeks left before the start of the festive season.

Where has this year gone?

As is traditional, it is fitting to review the year as it draws to an end, and update you on matters of interest as your council plans for the year ahead.

However, before I do, I would like to thank all the people who work tirelessly to ensure that Marchwood remains a great place to live.

The Parish Ground Staff do an exceptional job throughout the year, regardless of the weather conditions. They must be congratulated for the outstanding work they do, in particular, maintaining our green open spaces, the Falklands Memorial, the Millennium Border, and the improvements at the junction of Main Road and Oakland Drive, where the old rowing boat was located.

As usual, the flower beds and shrubbery were in immaculate condition for the VE-Day, VJ-Day and Falklands Memorial Services and Remembrance Sunday. They did our village proud, as we remember those who gave so much for our freedoms.

Like many households in the village, my colleagues and I are fully aware of the cost-of-living pressures we face, so managing the parish budgets is our highest priority.

Once again, we are on track to remain within the budgets and financial controls we established in April. Our tough decision-making has proved to be correct and necessary.

This parish could not function as it does without the excellent work undertaken by our Parish Clerk, Tina Dudley and Angela Woodward, our Finance Officer. Their help and guidance are invaluable as the Parish Council strives to provide value for money during these times of rising costs.

It is at this time of year that we finalise the next financial year's budget (2026-27) and strive to balance the books, keeping the increase in the precept as low as possible.

Our task is made more difficult as our parish has similar costs to its other neighbouring parishes, but with fewer properties from which to raise revenue, and our other income streams are currently minimal.

Our staffing levels are at their lowest to maintain service delivery, and all other budget heads are constantly under review.

The effects of climate change have led to our tree maintenance budget increasing disproportionately to other budget expenditures. However, I am pleased to report that our land management has improved significantly in keeping costs to a minimum and will continue to do so as we take on the freehold of the public open spaces at Larkspur Drive and Admiralty Way (RNAD).

These reasons necessitate that your council continue to challenge existing norms and protocols to reduce costs.

-oOo-

We are committed to becoming more carbon neutral and are actively engaged in transitioning to electric vehicles and leasing, rather than incurring significant capital expenditures. This move will yield considerable short- and long-term financial savings for the parish and make sound economic sense.

As the sole trustees of the Lloyd Recreation Ground, Marchwood Parish Council made a significant decision to transition to renewable energy, driven by substantial economic, environmental, and social benefits. One of the most persuasive factors is cost savings.

Switching to renewable green energy will help reduce our carbon footprint, result in cost savings, and enhance our public image.

Solar PV with battery storage offers short-, medium-, and long-term financial energy savings, providing an opportunity to enhance recreational facilities for the Marchwood community.

From April 2022 to March 2025, our annual electricity bills averaged £4,913. Despite switching to a new electricity tariff, the projected annual electricity bill for 2025-26 is approximately £3,120.

The new Solar Photovoltaic (PV) system with Battery storage is estimated to reduce this to £900 per annum, resulting in a saving of £2,200 per annum.

Unfortunately, we have had to make one difficult decision. From next year, we will continue to publish the Marchwood Village News in three editions.

-oOo-

One very significant event remains for 2025, and I urge you all to support this year's Christmas Fayre.

We have decided to move the day to Saturday, 13 December, at the new time of 3pm-8pm.

The revised date and time will enable our younger parishioners to participate in the festivities.

Despite last year's Christmas Fayre being a great success, our Christmas Fayre was held on a school day and at a time when our younger children could not attend.

This year, we will have more festive lights, and our Christmas Tree will remain up over the Christmas Holidays.

-oOo-

Hopefully, you will have noticed that a Public Consultation Document is enclosed with this edition of the *Marchwood Village News*.

We seek your views, comments, and suggestions as we plan and develop Cork Field to create a genuinely inclusive recreational facility that will be sustainable for the foreseeable future.

In years to come, Cork Field will be at the geographical centre of our village and will be a unique asset that needs to be developed with care and thought, allowing everyone to enjoy it.

Cork Field Development will not replicate the Lloyd Recreation Ground provision, as our Lloyd site will remain our central recreational hub for sports and will continue to host the many outdoor activities and events that our parishioners want and enjoy.

Our objective is to give Cork Field a renewed lease of life as a place where young and old can coexist in recreational pursuits, whether walking the dog, relaxing and enjoying the fresh air, or young people having somewhere to call their own - their home from home.

We have set ourselves three key priority areas: creating a safe environment, enhancing youth provision, and facilitating community projects.

To help focus the mind and assist in your considerations, the consultation has suggested a few viable propositions.

I urge you to complete our questionnaire either as a family or as individuals. Our goal is to encourage as many residents as possible to participate in this initiative. Additional copies are available, and we hope to launch an online version soon.

-oOo-

I am pleased to announce that on Saturday, 18 July 2026, the Lloyd Recreation Ground will host The Marchwood Family & Music Festival.

Once again, we are promoting a genuinely inclusive event that appeals to all age groups.

The day kicks off at midday with fun activities that will appeal to our younger parishioners, featuring a Kids Disco, a magician, other entertainers, and food and beverage vendors, including our very own *Pub in the Park*.

The evening will see a shift of emphasis; our impressive stage will showcase a very talented local band Thunderbolt & Lightning and we are pleased to announce two exciting tribute acts honouring two very popular British bands, **Take That** and **Queen**.

It promises to be a fun day for **everyone**.

Ticket prices and further details are available from the parish council office in the Village Hall, Adults £12 – Under 16's Free.

-oOo-

I hope that you contributed to the public consultations on the Solent Gateway 2 and Twiggs Lane School Street Proposals.

The Twiggs Lane proposal must not be seen in isolation. Indeed, it is part of the A326 Major Improvement Scheme, and as such, the other pinch point for access to the village from the A326, the Staplewood Lane proposal, must be carefully evaluated, and your Parish Council will ensure that your concerns are heard.

The same applies to the proposal to create a new junction between Hythe Road and the A326, to the south west of the Pilgrim Inn.

Solent Gateway 2 is a major and significant development for Marchwood, and your Parish Council and Solent Gateway will continue to work together to ensure that our voices are heard and that we are kept up to date with developments.

The non-statutory consultation was a welcome opportunity to participate actively in what will be a significant development. Let us seize this opportunity to bring benefits to Marchwood and shape the area for the benefit of all of us.

-oOo-

I hope everyone is aware of our new footpath, which runs alongside the military fence in Normandy Way, from Cracknore Hard Lane to near the entrance to Autumn Road. This path, which will be a real asset to the village, will make walking through the village safer.

The Parish Council fully supported ABP in their desire to relocate part of the Mulberry Harbour, known as a 'Whale', back to the Military Port in Marchwood.

Marchwood was one of the two Royal Engineer depots to assemble Whales in the latter years of the war.

I am pleased to report that Associated British Ports (ABP) has successfully removed the Grade II listed structure from the east of Royal Pier.

After being transported to Marchwood Military Port, it will undergo sympathetic restoration and then be permanently placed on display at the entrance to Solent Gateway Limited as a "Gate Guardian," available for public enjoyment.

I hope to announce details of the official unveiling shortly.

Many residents have asked me about the effectiveness of the camera enforcement on Staplewood Lane, Marchwood.

I am grateful to County Councillor David Harrison for obtaining these fascinating statistics.

The cameras became operational in April 2024, and warning notices were issued for the first six months for first-time contraventions. A total of 904 warning notices were issued.

As of the end of August 2025, we have issued 1,046 penalty charge notices, with 796 paid in full. Contraventions have dropped since the cameras were introduced; however, we are still receiving between 50 and 70 contraventions per month.

Unfortunately, at this time, I do not have a breakdown of cars, vans, and HGVs; however, I would imagine that this would also provide valuable insights into the driving habits in and around Marchwood.

I wish I could be more optimistic about finally announcing plans for the long-awaited footpath improvements from Kingfisher Way to Normandy Way. This initiative has suffered from many false starts as the Parish Council continues to unlock funding from the New Forest District Council. Hopefully, it won't be too long before we see spades in the ground!

Hopefully, you have received this edition of the Marchwood Village News before Remembrance Sunday, 9 November.

If you have, then I would like to inform you that the Parish Council has successfully applied to the New Forest District Council to close Main Road, Marchwood, from east of the junction with Mayvale Close to west of the junction with Vicarage Road.

This road closure notice will enable our colleagues at the 17th Port & Maritime Regiment to march and parade at our War Memorial as we pay our respects to those who gave so much for our freedoms, which we cherish to this day.

Both the 17th Port & Maritime Regiment and the Parish are committed to maintaining our excellent relationship.

-oOo-

I would also like to thank all Parish Committee Chairs and fellow councillors for their support and help in making Marchwood a great place to live.

We are unpaid volunteers who have stood for public office, wanting to give back to our community, where we have worked or lived for many years.

Being a Councillor is rewarding and fulfilling, as it helps ensure our village's issues are heard at the county and district levels, especially as there will be many challenges ahead.

Having a full complement of councillors ensures the best representation of our collective concerns and issues, and ensures the viability of a sustainable and proactive council.

We encourage and welcome new volunteers to join us in our commitment to

continue standing up and representing the parish of Marchwood.

If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch with the Parish Office for more information.

Finally, I want to wish everyone the compliments of the season and enjoy the forthcoming festivities.

I wish you all the very best for 2026.



Councillor David Harrison

Hampshire County Council



My role as County Councillor is so wide ranging that it can be difficult to decide what to report upon.

I have settled, this time, on providing a short summary of most of the things I have been involved in.

In common with all other current serving County Councillors, we are doing an extra year we didn't expect because of the decision of the County Council to apply for a fast track of local government reorganisation, which meant postponing elections until May next year. I won't go into the details here of all the possible outcomes except to say that the current government seems set on delivering larger combined authorities, replacing New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council. There will also be a new Regional Mayor. Elections for this also in May.

There are many threads related to transport issues I have been dealing with. Sadly, we still (as I write this) have no ferry service at Hythe. I have been assisting Grand Union Trains with the scheme to deliver a rail service to Marchwood. We are awaiting a decision from the Office of Road and Rail on this. The railway line south of Marchwood has been rather neglected and Network Rail have removed train barriers.

Despite the best of efforts of the Waterside Change Makers and a campaign I supported, "Better Buses", there haven't been any significant improvements to bus services serving the village. The loss of the Medical Practice has brought the issue into even sharper focus. It is thought that about 20% of villagers don't have access to their own transport. Highway Officers have agreed to look seriously at providing a new bus stop on the A326, near the Twiggs Lane Junction.

I cannot be sure if the A326 road widening scheme will go ahead, especially following the collapse of the Fawley Waterside development plans and the increased cost of constructing it (over £130 million). There are doubts that government will consider it affordable.

There have been a few improvements in and around the area that benefit pedestrians and cyclists. However, there is still progress to be made, particular with three important things.... creating a safer link between Marchwood and Hythe, better access for pedestrians and cyclists into the New Forest and finally, extending the wonderful off road cycle and walking

route from the Trotts Lane junction to Hounsdown (with an access link to Sunnyfields).

I have a special responsibility at Hampshire County Council for leading on scrutiny for Health and Adult Services. This involves a huge amount of work, occasionally visiting Care homes and other facilities, challenging NHS Leaders, liaising with the Integrated Care Board over plans they have for health services across the whole of Hampshire, access to GP's, pharmacies, dentists etc. There is always a lot happening. You can read about the work of the HASC by visiting the HCC website.

I was appointed by HCC to be a Governor on Hampshire & IOW Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. I am still getting to know how things work and the people there, taking advantage of training and applying some knowledge learnt during my time working for the NHS.

I am also a long serving Board Member of Hampshire & IOW Fire Authority, Chairing the Audit & Governance Committee. You have read press reports that suggest cuts being made present a real risk to the fire service operating safely. It is true that adequate funding of the service is a very real and significant challenge. So far, we have managed to balance the books (a legal requirement) and make the necessary savings by taking difficult decisions that don't involve redundancies. We all think that it will be necessary to increase council tax if government fail to provide additional funding.

Finally, a mention of the work I do as an HCC appointed Board Member of the New Forest National Park Authority. I am now the longest serving current member and was pleased to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the National Park this year. It is doing some fabulous work, mainly by working with partner organisations. We have been financially stressed, to say the least, but we think we have found a solution involving reducing our rental costs by acquiring a permanent home in the New Forest National Park itself. Fingers crossed, all will work out well. More on this at a later report.

Always happy to hear feedback or answer questions.

E Mail david.harrison@hants.gov.uk

Facebook Councillor David Harrison

Councillor Patrick Mballa

New Forest District Council



Regional & Local Update

Local Council Reorganisation

All District Councillors unanimously supported Option 1, to keep the New Forest rural and whole under the proposed unitary government. However, despite our strong local support, the final decision lies with officials in Whitehall representing a government that appears out of touch, pursuing a different agenda, and betraying the hopes of electors while undermining our democracy.

Local Council Updates

Waste Collection

I would like to apologise to residents still waiting for their bin bag deliveries. I was informed that NFDC is in the process of delivering bin bags to Marchwood, and it's confirmed this will be the final delivery ahead of the new waste service starting in March 2026.

For more details, please email: customer.services@nfdc.gov.uk

Infrastructure & Development

Major Projects in Our Village

Marchwood stands at the crossroads of major infrastructure projects that will reshape transportation, logistics, and sustainability in our region. I have urged residents via social media to engage in the public consultations; your voice matters in shaping our future.

Freeport – Solent Gateway Expansion

On 26th September, I attended ABP's public consultation in the village hall regarding their plans to extend the Solent Gateway onto reclaimed land between Marchwood and Hythe. Plans include:

- A major new country park and environmental enhancements
- A new direct access route from the A326
- Expanded port facilities

I urged ABP to:

- Provide a safe footpath and cycle route connecting Marchwood to Hythe & Dibden, in line with the New Forest Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- Develop new sports and shopping facilities on their land, including adequate parking to reduce congestion on Hythe Road during school hours, and to support community projects that enhance residents wellbeing.

- Collaborate with Hampshire County Council (HCC) on A326 improvements, particularly at the Twiggs Lane and Staplewood Lane junctions. I also raised concerns about the spur road potentially becoming a rat run for lorries accessing industrial estates, and requested physical measures to prevent HGVs from passing through the village.
- Create job opportunities and apprenticeships for local residents.

More info: solentgateway2.co.uk

HCC Twiggs Lane & A326

On 30th September, I attended Hampshire County Council's consultation at the school, highlighting the need for joined up thinking between HCC, ABP, NFDC, Marchwood Parish Council, Southampton Football Club, Barker Mills, and residents. Collaboration is essential to ensure proposals improve infrastructure, enhance school safety, and minimise disruption.

More info: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/twiggs-lane-improvements>

BESS Battery Storage Project

On 25th June, I attended the consultation at ABP Gatehouse for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Marchwood Industrial Park. This system will strengthen the UK's energy grid by storing surplus electricity for peak use.

I raised concerns to ensure the project does not negatively affect local businesses.

More info: marchwood-bess.co.uk

Marchwood Pump Track

I am proud of our Parish Councillors, officers, and village champions for securing a £100,000 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant for a pump track at Cork Field.

The track will be suitable for skateboards, bikes, scooters, and rollerblades, offering much-needed recreational space for our youth while future-proofing village developments. The Parish Council is launching a community consultation to help enhance facilities and wellbeing for all in the village.

Supporting Local Charities

This year, I will donate my NFDC grant to support those in need, including:

- The Foodbanks
- AFC Totton Christmas Appeal
- The Crossings (supporting the homeless)

Q&A with Residents

Fellow Councillor Lindsey Shelley and I meet our residents regularly on these dates:

- 18th of October 2025 - 10am to 11am - Marchwood Village Centre Car Park
- 29th of November 2025 - 10am to 11am - Mill Café, Eling Tide Mill
- 13th of October 2025 - 10am to 11am - Marchwood Village Centre Car Park

Marchwood Christmas Fayre - Saturday 13th of December 2025, 3-8pm

Join us for one of our biggest community celebrations of the year. Lets come together as one big family to celebrate Christmas in the village centre & village hall. The Parish Council is taking bookings for stalls.

International Development in Cameroon Project

A massive thank you to the volunteers who joined me in Eastern Cameroon this year. Together we:

- Built 3 bore wells equipped with solar pumps, providing clean water for around 5,000 people.
- Distributed 1,500 mosquito nets in hospitals and refugee camps, protecting mothers, babies, and vulnerable people from malaria.
- We are mobilising a new team for next year to rehabilitate a medical centre serving approx. 15,000 people with vital emergency care.

More info: www.camerooncatalyst.org

Councillor Richard Young

New Forest District Council



In July I realised upon checking my diary that ten whole years had passed since 2015 when I commenced my unintended local political journey. I was first co-opted onto Marchwood Parish Council, becoming Vice Chairman in 2016, and then elected as Parish Council Chairman for four consecutive years between 2017 and 2022 (I was re-elected as a Parish Councillor at the May 2019 elections). Then in the May 2023 local elections I was elected as New Forest District Councillor for Marchwood and Eling. Striving to keep everything in balance (I also have a day job and a young family) I simultaneously stepped down from Marchwood Parish Council in May 2023. It has been quite the unexpected adventure, but one that I am proud and privileged to undertake in our collective community interests.

So a sincere thank you from me to you all for the frequent kind words of support, both in person and in private correspondence. I have to this day never held any real political ambition, I quite simply enjoy doing what I reasonably can to help the community that I am proud to call home and to try and help it prosper.

Looking to future potential opportunities in and around Marchwood, it has been a busy few months with consultations on ABPs plans to extend Solent Gateway and HCC's plans at Twiggs Lane. In principle, I am broadly supportive of what is now being proposed at Dibden Bay. We simply have to find ways to help ensure our New Forest communities remain sustainable by providing skilled career type opportunities. However, in my view only if 1) there are legal covenants put in place by ABP which ensure that the proposed country park and nature reserve remain as such in perpetuity, and 2) that we see the A326 capacity enhanced BEFORE any development takes place as our current roads system is plainly already stretched to capacity now.

On the Twiggs Lane proposals I am again largely supportive of making this road a safer place for children and adults to walk and cycle, though as I fed back to HCCs officers at their event, I think that there needs to be far greater consideration towards the likely impacts of displacing existing car parking from Twiggs Lane onto Hythe Road. Whatever changes are made to Twiggs Lane will likely not magically mean dramatically more people are walking and cycling, that is simply the stark reality of the increasingly busy lives many of us now lead.

Onto Local Government Reorganisation, I was very happy to second the recent proposal to Cabinet that NFDC only support "Option 1". This option clearly proposes to Government that the New Forest becomes part of a unitary authority alongside Test Valley, Winchester, and East Hampshire.

These are existing neighbouring authorities who share our predominantly rural outlook, and have strong local views on our respective centuries long local history, culture, and identities. I made an impassioned speech to council, putting forward this point and many more. Emphasising beyond all doubt that the Waterside is inextricably the New Forest and must always remain as such. We will now have to wait until Spring of 2026 when a decision from Government will be made as to the future of local councils across Hampshire.

Whilst LGR is not a journey that local people have voted for, or my NFDC colleagues and I have actively chosen to embark upon, I am satisfied that we have collectively done all that we reasonably can to make an overwhelmingly strong case to #KeepTheForestWhole

My sincere thanks to NFDC Colleagues, Officers, and local residents for collectively and constructively working to achieve this position.

As always, if I can ever be of assistance you can best contact me via email on richard.young@nfdc.gov.uk or searching "Councillor Richard Young" on Facebook.

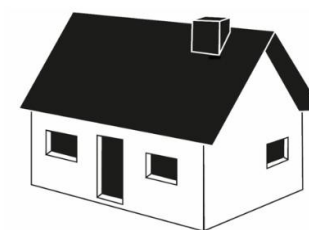
SpeedWatch

Volunteers Needed

I am 87 years of age and have lived in Marchwood for 45 years. It is a wonderful place to live; so close to the City of Southampton, but still retaining a village character. Unfortunately, this all seems to be threatened by recent and newly planned road systems, which increasingly cut us off from the wonders of the Solent and the New Forest, and by the speed of the traffic passing through Marchwood. This second drawback is the bane of my life. I feel so unsafe and intimidated as I walk to the Co-op of a morning to collect my newspaper by vehicles passing, way over the speed limit. If only they realised the effect they have on the elderly and young families.

Is there anything I can do about it? Not much! But in my case, at least I have tried: by joining a small band of SpeedWatch volunteers who stand by the roadside at various points for an hour, two or three times a month, and with the full support of the local police, record the registration numbers of speeding vehicles. It's not much but it's something. We are a small band and badly need more volunteers. Could you give up an hour or two of your time each month? The more of us there are, the more effect we will have.

For details on how to volunteer please get in touch with Cindy Harrington 07566 223912.



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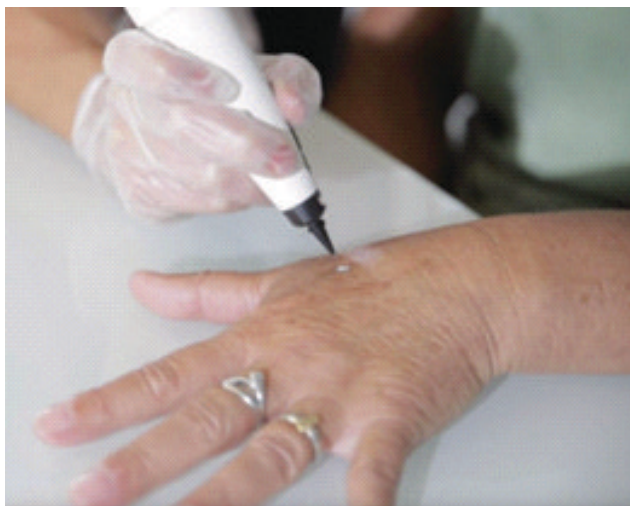
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Freeze Away Imperfections: The Future of Skin Care with Cryotherapy

When it comes to looking and feeling our best, few treatments have created as much buzz recently as **cryotherapy** – the art of using extreme cold to treat common skin concerns. Once the preserve of dermatology clinics and high-end medical spas, cryotherapy is now making its way into local beauty and aesthetics practices, offering clients a safe, quick, and highly effective solution to unwanted skin lesions.

What Exactly Is Cryotherapy?

Cryotherapy literally means "cold therapy." Using a fine jet of nitrous oxide, advanced devices such as the **CryoPen** target skin imperfections with pinpoint accuracy. By freezing only the unwanted tissue, the treatment removes blemishes without damaging the healthy skin around it.



What Can Be Treated?

Cryotherapy is suitable for a wide range of everyday skin concerns, including:

- Skin tags
- Warts and verrucas
- Age spots and sun spots
- Milia (small white bumps)
- Cherry angiomas (red spots)
- Seborrheic keratosis



Most treatments take just a few minutes, with minimal discomfort and no need for anaesthetic.

Why Choose Cryotherapy?

- **Quick & Precise** – Treatments typically last under 30 seconds per lesion.
- **Virtually Painless** – Clients often describe only a mild stinging sensation.
- **Minimal Downtime** – Redness or a small blister may appear but usually heals withing a few days to weeks.
- **Cosmetic Confidence** – Leaves little to no scarring, making it a popular choice for visible areas like the face, neck, and hands.

What to Expect

After treatment, the lesion will gradually fade, crust, or fall away as the body naturally heals. Most clients see full results within 2–6 weeks. For stubborn or deeper lesions, a second session may be recommended.

A Modern Approach to Skin Confidence

Cryotherapy represents a new chapter in non-invasive skin care – combining medical technology with aesthetic expertise. Whether it's removing a bothersome skin tag, softening age spots, or restoring confidence in your complexion, cryotherapy offers a **fast, safe, and effective solution** right here in our community. Solent Beauty is now offering the latest in cryotherapy treatments.



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See www.solentbeauty.co.uk for a full list of treatments available.

Call 07881 349 917 for more information or to book an appointment.

We are located in Admiralty Way, Marchwood.

Marchwood WI Mid-Winter 2025

Cartoons and Choirs

In September, local author and illustrator Simon Chadwick came to the meeting.

He brilliantly explained how to draw cartoon faces/characters and how a slight difference in facial features could totally change the mood/demeanor of the character that is being drawn.

Everybody drew their six circles on paper and at the end had six totally different faces, nose, ears, eyes mouth and hair...it was fascinating and really good fun! Whether any of the members will embark on a new career as a cartoonist remains to be seen.

The Singing with Friends group is still meeting every Monday morning in the village hall bar Bank Holidays and has become a large community group...the group consists of about fifty/fifty WI members and local people who love singing and find that the companionship and camaraderie they find at the group, is a brilliant start to the rest of the week....they now have a repertoire of 270 songs spanning about 100 years!

The meetings have been funded again for a further year by the Waterside Community Fund....for which we thank them.

The difference it makes to so many people is immeasurable.

Our WI Singers/Choir meet every two weeks on a Monday evening and will be performing a concert featuring songs from "The Sound of Music" for the Solid Silver Group in November narrated and led by John Bell, our choir-master. But also John is gradually putting together a more eclectic group of Songs from the Musicals, to give us a broader range of singing knowledge.

Our Marchwood WI was at the Summer Fete selling drinks and cakes and will also be at the Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall on Saturday 13th December.

In November the meeting is a Christmas themed craft evening... as a lot of our members are very accomplished, craft wise, a craft evening is a good way for them to share their knowledge and skill and maybe encourage others to try something new.

Our Christmas party in December will have our local Saxophone group, "Saxophonous" to entertain of which our President Debra Rich is a member. She also accompanies the choir in some of our songs on the flute!

Marchwood WI meets on the second Tuesday of the month (bar August) at 7.15 p.m. in the Village Hall and all are welcomed.

A full programme list for 2026 will be published in the next edition of the Village News.

Marchwood Twinning Association



We welcomed 19 French visitors to Marchwood in June as part of our exchange weekend. Host families welcomed our guests into their homes, showing them a brief insight into English culture. We had lots of activities planned including visits to Exbury Gardens and the Swanage Railway.



The weather was kind for our visits but unfortunately the heavens opened on the Saturday evening when we planned a BBQ. With a quick change we used the Church Hall for an indoor BBQ using air fryers, which turned into a great fun event.

The next evening, we gathered together for a beetle drive, which proved to be very amusing.

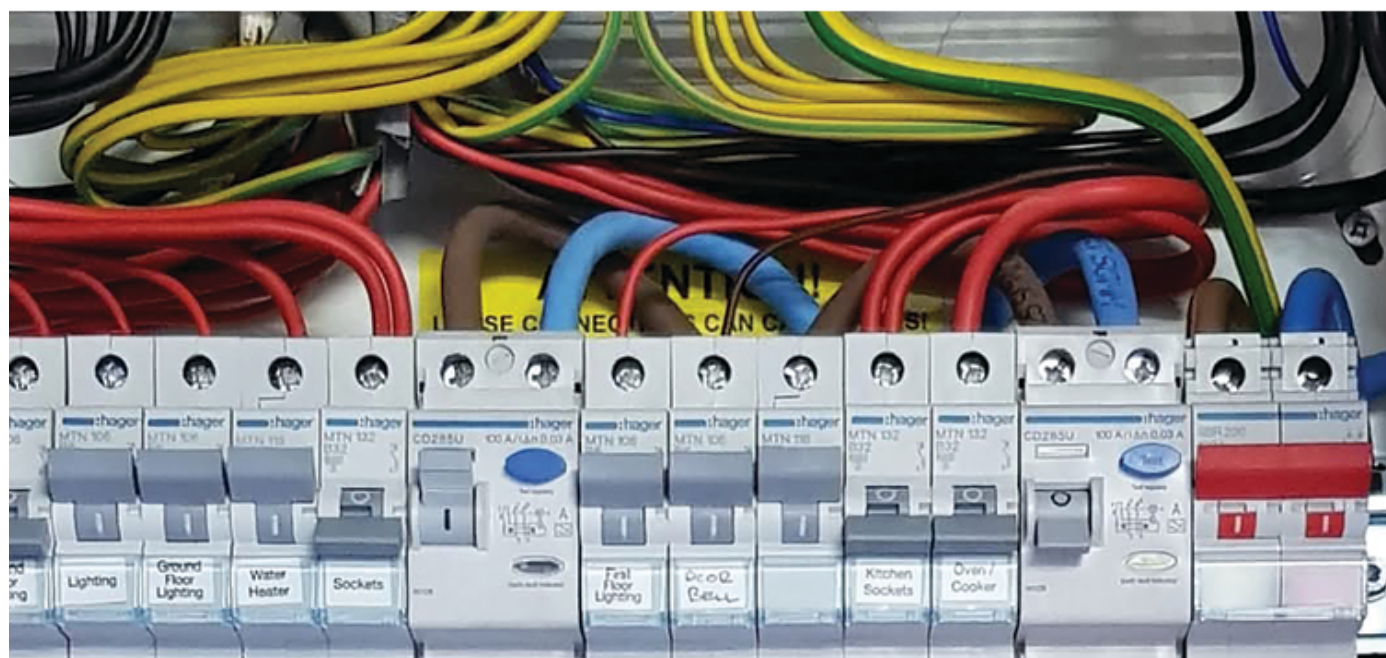
The whole weekend was a great success and our guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



We have been invited to visit St Contest in Normandy for the weekend 23rd - 25th May 2026. Our French friends are very keen that we take over a large group of Marchwood residents. We are therefore encouraging people in the village to think about joining us on our trip next year. The French twinning committee organise a full programme for the weekend and they pay for all the activities. The only cost is the ferry fare to France. St Contest is 20 minutes from the port, so we normally go over as foot passengers. You would be hosted by a French family, which sounds daunting but is great fun. You don't need to speak French but you can try out any you might have learned at school.

For more information please contact Keith Petty on 07986 353362 or email familypetty@outlook.com.

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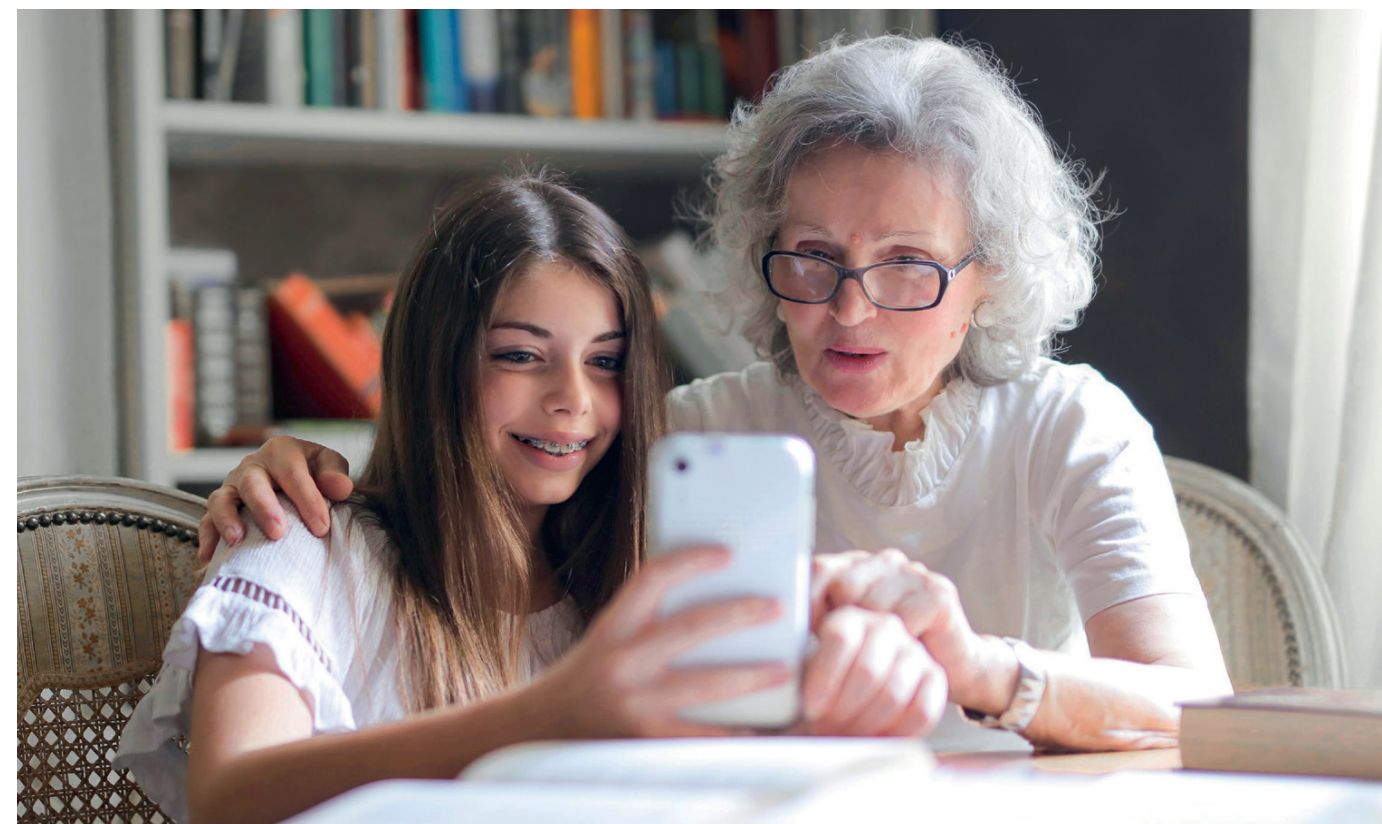
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Shine Studios partners with Twiggs Lane Preschool to bring dance into the classroom

Shine Studios, the Waterside's much-loved dance school, is excited to announce a new partnership with Twiggs Lane Preschool, bringing the joy of dance into the early years curriculum.

From this term, Shine Studios will be delivering half termly dance sessions for Twiggs Lane Preschool children, giving little ones the chance to explore movement, music, and creativity in a fun and nurturing environment. These classes are specially designed for preschoolers, helping them develop coordination, confidence, and social skills while also encouraging a love of movement from an early age.

Principal of Shine Studios, Katie Lloyd, shared:

"We're delighted to be working with Twiggs Lane Preschool. Dance is such a powerful tool for expression and learning, and introducing it at this age helps build confidence, creativity, and teamwork. It's wonderful to see the children light up when the music starts."

Twiggs Lane Preschool Manager, Becky Copeland, added:

"We're always looking for new ways to enrich our children's learning and experiences. Having Shine Studios deliver dance sessions means our children are getting high-quality, fun, and engaging activities that really support their physical and emotional development."

This collaboration is part of Shine Studios' wider commitment to making dance accessible to the local community, from preschoolers through to adults. With classes running in ballet, tap, modern, and musical theatre, Shine Studios continues to be at the heart of dance locally.

For more information about Shine Studios and their classes, visit www.shinestudios.co.uk or contact info@shinestudios.co.uk.



Marchwood Litter Pickers

Thank you to everyone who came to the July litter pick. 23 volunteers collected 13 black sacks full. We also collected 2 bags of crushed cans to raise money for Hampshire Air Ambulance. Many thanks to Councillor Richard Young for giving the group part of his Community Grant to allow us to top up kit to continue these events.

The dates for the litter picks in 2026 will be as follows:

Saturday 24th January

Saturday 18th April

Saturday 18th July

Saturday 17th October

For all picks, we will be 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

At the time of writing, Marchwood Men's Shed is fast approaching its 3rd birthday. Somehow it seems like we've been doing this for much longer than 3 years!

Since the last edition of the Village News, we've been putting up bat boxes around the village, helping Marchwood Junior School with props for their year 6 performance, building display easels for a group of local amateur artists, replacing the planter at the Village Hall and building memorial benches. We also attended the fantastic Marchwood Fete and would like to thank you all for supporting us by purchasing the items we have made. We've continued to make and sell our hedgehog boxes, which in addition to raising funds for the shed has now raised £230 for East Boldre Hedgehog Rescue.

We had our first summer social this year at the Village Hall which was well attended and enjoyed by members and their families. We're now busy planning our Christmas celebration.



We meet on a Wednesday from 09:00 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 our first workday of the season, cutting and raking the Cork Flower wildflower meadow. This meadow has been managed by the MCV for over 25 years. The purpose of the cut and rake is to reduce the fertility of the soil, weakening the grasses to allow the wildflowers to establish. Over the time the meadow has been managed, the number of flowering species has nearly doubled.

We are looking forward to the remaining sessions of the season, and hope to once again work with Marchwood Infants and Junior schools, as well as hazel coppicing in Crooked Hayes.



The MCV meet once per month during the Autumn and Winter. The work days are relaxed and there is no pressure to attend all of them. We are looking for more volunteers, so if you are interested in getting involved, please get in touch via marchwoodconservation@gmail.com.

Marchwood Bat Walk

We have run 3 bat walks this year, attended by approximately 20 people each time. We've been lucky enough to have Lisa from Hampshire Bat Group lead the walks and share her knowledge with us.

Each time we have seen and 'heard' both Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats using the bat detectors.

If anyone is interested in attending future events next year, please send me an email to gary_james_wright@hotmail.co.uk and I'll add you to the mailing list.



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Hythe	Wednesday 10 December 5.30pm
Lymington	Thursday 11 December 5.30pm
Brockenhurst	Friday 12 December 5.30pm

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Parish News Article – Rev'd Lauren Cheshire, Vicar at Marchwood and Eling Parish

Goodness, how time flies! My family and I moved here in the spring and now we are in autumn! We are now looking at getting the chimney swept ready for those colder months. I must say, this is probably my favourite time of the year, although I am a big fan of the change in seasons. In fact, I'm a big fan of change, which at times can be problematic; in my role consistency is key. I have noticed that there is an element of change that I struggle with though... waiting.

It may sound strange to think about waiting and change together, but given a little more thought, it is a significant part of the process. As the saying goes, we have to 'trust the process'. My kids play online games like Roblox and Minecraft and I have often played with them (part of how we keep them safe online – we join in!). The thing I LOVE is that everything is instant, want a house, well just pop blocks down and there's a house. Want to re paint a wall? Select the colour and click, done. Not so with real life! Everything is a process, having a child, moving house, redecorating, gardening and much more!

Change involves waiting. In a culture that is hurried and wants the immediate, if possible, I think that perhaps many more of us find change challenging not just for what we lose (there is always loss with change) but also the sometimes-painful process to get there.

Church life is no different, change is normal and yet hard for communities with hundreds of years of history. Things like two parishes becoming one parish can feel uncomfortable for many reasons. A feeling of losing autonomy as each PCC opens to welcome the other to become one PCC. The decision-making processes shifting, new leadership coming in with annoying new ideas. Yet, change has always been part of the rhythm of Church life and indeed all life. Seasons are not just found in creation, but in our own physiology, our relationships and our communities. God does not leave us as we were, if and when we limped up to Him, He promises to transform us, not into something else, but into the truest us as He sees. Change and transformation is healthy, but not always comfy.

I wonder what you might be waiting for, or what change you are watching unfold, unsure if it is the right direction of travel. Perhaps you are having to trust others to lead in change and its unnerving? The process and waiting is where these concerns, excitement and impatience are rife and is actually a time that the wise can use SO well. The people who make this transitional stage easier are the people who walk with you, talk openly about how they feel, ask to share the vision and input to effect and be part of change and, for me, it's those who pray. Jesus was just like this, He walked, talked, eat, prayed, comforted and encouraged. The great thing is God is also unchanging and thus is a firm foundation to navigate change from.

Autumn is happening, creation is obediently folding itself away for winter. In spring we will watch it unfold again for those warmer days. In all the changes, in all the seasons, good, bad and ugly, one thing remains. God loves us, is with us and invites us to enjoy the now and wait for the not yet.

All my love, Lauren

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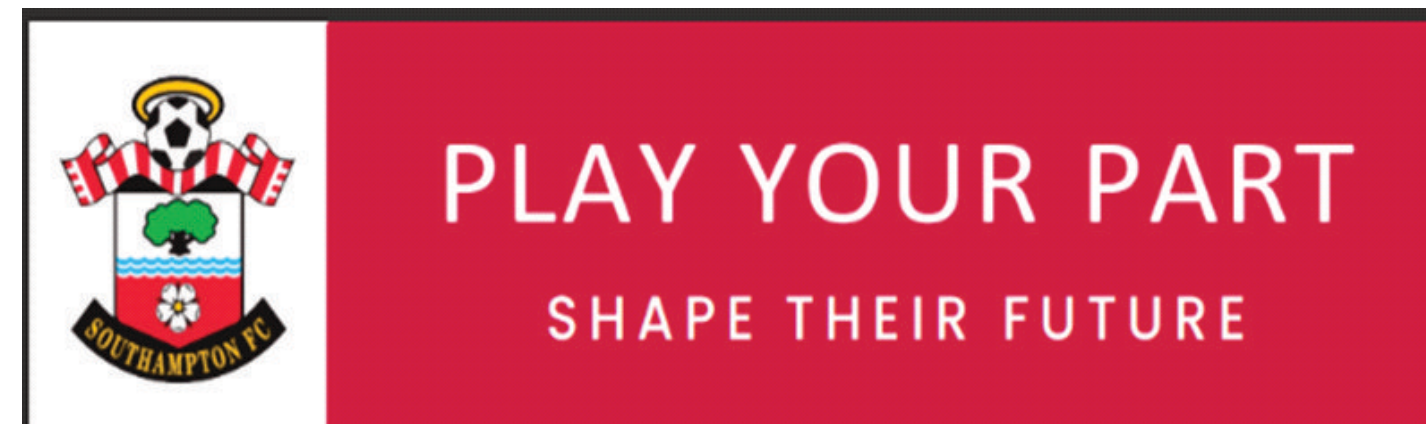
Open **360+ days a year**, it's part of our commitment to:

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- Bring fans and the community closer to the club
- Make St Mary's a lively destination all year round

Celebrate the Launch

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- **Season Ticket holders** will also enjoy exclusive discounts — details announced soon.

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Tour of Staplewood Training Ground

Southampton Football Club are offering a limited number of residents of Marchwood a tour of the training ground at Staplewood on Monday 17th November 2025 4pm - 5pm.

To apply please contact Marchwood Parish Council's office.

office@marchwoodparish.gov.uk

To be eligible proof of residency will have to be provided.

Allocations will be first come first served.



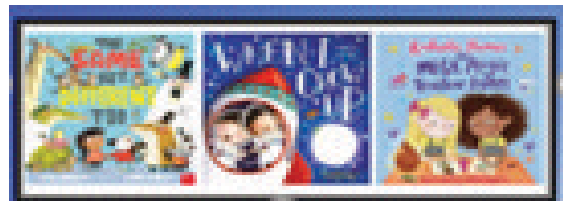
We had a very busy end to the academic Year during the summer term. It was full of exciting, new learning, fun school trips and we also said a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 2 Leavers.



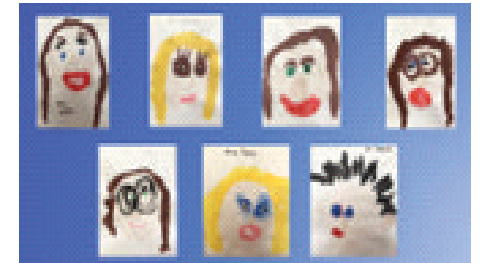
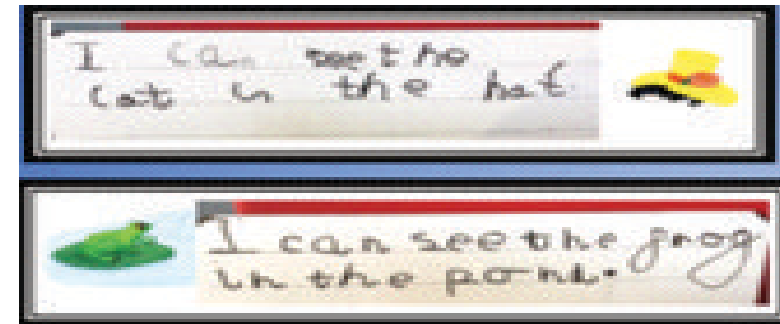
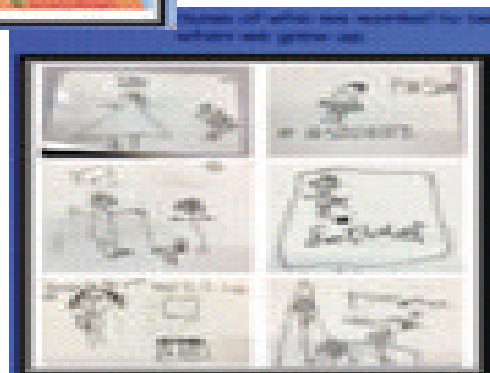
We had a lovely afternoon in June when we invited Dads into school for our special Father's Day afternoon. The children really enjoyed this and we hope the dads did too!



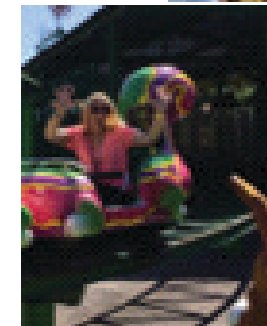
Year 1 children enjoyed learning about The Great Outdoors. They enjoyed a great trip to Hilliers Garden Centre where they were able to take part in pond dipping and learnt lots about bugs and trees! In RE they learnt about the Jewish day of rest, Shabbat.



In Year R children were thinking about how marvellous they were in their topic Marvellous Me! They looked at similarities and differences between themselves and friends and used this as an inspiration for writing. They learnt about important jobs that adults do and wrote about what they'd like to be when they grow up.

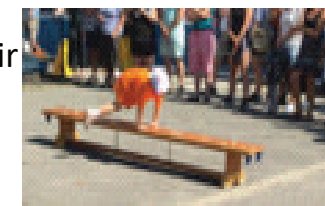


Year 2 had a really busy term. They visited Romsey Abbey and attended a special Church School Leavers Service along with other church schools in the area. They also had great fun when they celebrated their time at the Infant School with a trip to Paultons Park! They made us feel very proud when they read and sang so beautifully at their leavers concert. We hope that they have all settled in well at their new Junior schools.



The whole school enjoyed Sports Day in June. We were blessed with beautiful weather and a great turn out from parents. All of the children tried their very best and enjoyed a morning full of sport!

The winning team this year was WHITE team!



PTA

Sadly, we weren't able to hold our usual PTA Summer Fayre this year. So instead, the children enjoyed taking part in It's Not Fayre week in school!



This week was really good fun for the children and they took part in lots of exciting challenges and fundraising activities.

We held a Summer Raffle too! Thank you very much to all of the local companies who donated prizes. Your support is much appreciated.

We would like to say a big Marchwood Welcome all of our new Year R children and families! They have all settled into school life very well and we look forward to leading their learning adventure over the course of the next 3 years!

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The Gospel Church



'Hold your noise,' cried a terrible voice, as a man started up from among the graves at the side of the church porch. 'Keep still, or I'll cut your throat!'

Maybe you recognise the above quote from Charles Dickens' famous novel *Great Expectations*. The story has been adapted for film and television many times – most recently for a six-part TV series filmed in part at Bucklers Hard in the New Forest. It relates the tale of a poor orphaned boy named Pip, who unexpectedly receives a fortune from a mysterious benefactor, and determines to use it to improve his status in society.

The aspirations of the central character are easy to relate to, for success and happiness are two of the things people strive after the most in this world. And the conviction that life could be so much better for us if only our circumstances were to change is a common one, though in reality this is seldom true.

In the Bible, the Old Testament prophets wrote about a promised Messiah – someone sent by God to deliver people from oppression and lead them into a better future. The people waited for him expectantly for hundreds of years, yet when he came, few of them realised it. The man God sent was called Jesus – born into the squalor of a stable in Bethlehem, with a mission to free people from the oppression of sin, and to bring them into a peaceful and loving relationship with his Father, God.

Why not join us at the Gospel Church to discover more about Jesus, and God's offer of salvation? Our Sunday morning service takes place at 10.30 at the Infant School in Twiggs Lane (term time), or in our Church building in Long Lane during School holidays.

Over the Christmas period we will be meeting at the Church, and you will receive a warm welcome at any of the following:

- 16th December 10.30 am: Carols at Connect.
- 21st December 6.00 pm: Carols by Candlelight.
- 25th December 10.30 am: Christmas Day Family Service.



We will also be joining with the other village churches for the Live Nativity on Sunday 14th December from 4pm.

More information, including details of our regular services, Connect Café, Tots, Tales & Tunes, Beans Club, Ladies Group, Games Café and Men's Breakfast can be found on our website: www.gospelchurchmarchwood.org.uk



Our last Messy Church Marchwood activities were at the Village Fete on July 5th providing crafts and games in the Scout Hut. We had a steady stream of families visiting who all enjoyed our 'Forest Life' activities. Many thanks to the fete committee for organising and working so hard on such a great community event.



The next event will be our annual Light Party on October 31st at Marchwood Gospel Church at 5:30pm. Following that we will be in St John's Church on December 22nd for our wonderful Messy Christingle service at 3pm. We look forward to meeting you at our future events which are always free to attend.



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

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



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Solent Gateway 2 – our emerging plans for a considered port expansion

In September, we launched the Solent Gateway 2 non-statutory public consultation, marking the first step in our planning journey. This consultation was designed to share our early ideas and gather feedback, helping us shape our emerging proposals ahead of a second consultation in Autumn 2026.

Consultation highlights

The consultation ran from 16 September to 13 October and included:

- 7 in-person community drop-in events
- 2 live webinars, with Q&A session

We were pleased to meet local community members, each providing valuable feedback on our initial proposals.

Key elements of the proposal

- New marine facilities - A new jetty located near the existing jetties at Solent Gateway.
- Automotive terminal space - Operational buildings, storage areas, multi-decked vehicle storage, and administration facilities.
- Environmental enhancements - Recognising the ecological value of the Waterside area and the adjacent National Park, we're exploring ways to preserve and enrich the landscape. This includes green buffers between the development and nearby residential areas.
- Improved road access - A new access route connecting directly to the A326, allowing vehicles to bypass Marchwood and access Solent Gateway more efficiently.
- New community green space - A major new country park and environmental improvements equivalent to over 300 football pitches (based on current estimates). This space would offer new and enhanced walking and cycling routes, linking Marchwood and Hythe.

Next steps

Throughout 2026, we'll continue engaging with local parish councils and other organisations to discuss our evolving plans and answer any questions.

To stay informed and receive updates, please register your details on our website: www.solentgateway2.co.uk



ABP Solent Gateway Supports Marchwood Junior School Fireworks Night

We are proud to support the local community by donating £500 to the annual Marchwood Junior School Firework Display — a much-loved event that brings families together while raising vital funds for the school.

Over the years, the event has grown significantly, now attracting over 1,000 attendees from across the local area. In 2024, the display raised an impressive £6,000 for the school's Parents, Friends & Teachers Association (PFTA), helping to fund projects that directly benefit pupils.

The money raised will be used for new initiatives, including the creation of a sensory garden.

ABP Solent Gateway's contribution reflects its ongoing commitment to supporting local education and community engagement.

Zara Cullen, Chair of Marchwood Junior School PTFA, said: "We are truly grateful to ABP for their generous sponsorship of our community fireworks event. Their support helps bring our community together in celebration and ensures a memorable evening for all. As well as helping us raise much needed funds to support the school by creating a sensory garden for all the children to enjoy."



Historic D-Day Whale Bridge Returns to Marchwood for Preservation

The D-Day Whale bridge, a vital component of the Mulberry harbours used during the Normandy landings in 1944, has been carefully lifted from its current position near the Red Funnel terminal in Southampton prior to be transported to Marchwood Military Port.

Many of the floating roadway sections, known as a Whale bridge, played a crucial role in enabling Allied forces to land vehicles and supplies on the beaches of Normandy. Its return to Marchwood — where it is believed to have been constructed over 80 years ago — marks a significant moment in the preservation of British military heritage.

In September, the operation, coordinated by a specialist team, involved lifting the Whale bridge out of the water, by the Red Funnel operation, using a high-capacity crane. Once safely hoisted, it was placed onto a lorry designed to accommodate its size and weight for transport.

The whale bridge is at Solent Gateway, where it will undergo cleaning and preservation to protect its structure and historical integrity.

Once restored, the bridge will be placed outside the port in Marchwood acting as a gate guardian.

Richard Parkinson, Solent Gateway Port Director said: “We are proud to relocate the D-Day Whale Bridge back to Solent Gateway, where it will be preserved for future generations. Returning this historic structure to the military community that originally built it for the D-Day invasion is a way of reconnecting with our past and paying tribute to the extraordinary efforts of those who served.”

Lt Col Tom Goodall, Commanding Officer 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC said: “We are extremely grateful for all of the incredible work done by ABP to return this historic artifact to Marchwood. It will serve as a poignant reminder of the important role the community played in the Nation's history.”

Neil Chapman, Operations Director at Red Funnel, said: “We were pleased to support the relocation of Whale Bridge as part of a collaborative operation between Red Funnel and ABP. Part of Red Funnel’s heritage, Whale Bridge was once used as a Red Funnel linkspan, and we’re delighted to see this historic piece of infrastructure undergo restoration and preservation.”



Inspiring the Next Generation: Our Educational Outreach Programme

We're pleased to have launched a new educational outreach programme aimed at engaging schools and colleges near both the Port of Southampton and Solent Gateway.

Our goal is to inspire the next generation to explore the wide range of careers available in the maritime sector. From graduate programmes to apprenticeships, and roles in marine piloting, engineering, project management, cruise operations, commercial, property, and finance—there's something for everyone at ABP.

Through our Next Generation Educational Outreach Programme, we're offering:

- Port tours
- Careers talks
- Careers days
- Classroom activities

If you're a headteacher, careers advisor, or student interested in learning more, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact nicola.denbigh@abports.co.uk to register your interest.



Careers Day at Ocean Cruise Terminal

Save the date for the next Maritime and Transport Careers Day to be held at Ocean Cruise Terminal on Thursday 20 November. The event is co-ordinated by the Maritime and Transport Careers Programme (MTCP).

This will be the second year the port has hosted the MTCP careers day. Local schools within the Solent area have been invited to the port to meet leading organisations in maritime and transport. Fifteen local maritime and transport organisations exhibited at the event last year, including ABP, DP World, Carnival UK, Red Funnel, Meachers Global Transport, Southampton International Airport, Tesla, Solent Stevedores, and Williams Shipping. During the day, students had the opportunity to meet each organisation and learn about careers, apprenticeships, and graduate programmes; they also had the chance to speak to employees from each organisation during a speed networking session. Outside of the terminal, pupils were able to get a "hands on" experience inside HGV cabins, the Tech Truck from Fareham College, and a Tesla car. The event in November this year will follow a similar format.

For details contact Katie Bruce - katie.bruce@hants.gov.uk at Maritime and Transport Careers Programme, or take a look at the website –

www.mtcp.co.uk



Explore the Port of Southampton Virtually!

We're excited to introduce our brand-new virtual port tour, designed to give you a clear view of where our key operations take place across the port. From the UK's second-largest container terminal to the busiest automotive export terminal, and our five world-class cruise terminals, you can now explore it all from wherever you are. We have also included our other sites – Solent Gateway, Marchwood Industrial Park and Eling Wharf.

So, whether you're a resident, new to working at the port, a cruise passenger, an HGV driver, or one of our stakeholders visiting the port, the tour includes helpful information about the port. You'll find guidance on routes, dock gate access, and how to reach the cruise terminals with ease.

We have developed this site in line with feedback received at our Community Port Tour held in April this year. This tour offers a digital way to view the port, particularly for those who couldn't attend the in-person tour during the Easter Holidays, and we hope it gives you a flavour of the scale and size of our operations and port.

We look forward to welcoming you—virtually and in person!

Visit the link below to open the tour!

<https://www.abports.co.uk/locations/southampton/360>



ABP Southampton Supports 17 Port and Maritime Regiment with Historic Mural Donation

We proudly donated to support the creation of a new mural within the Junior Soldiers' Dining Facility at the 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps.

The mural, which spans three walls, captures the rich and often unsung history of Army Maritime operations. It honours the legacy of the 17 Port and Maritime Regiment and its predecessors, showcasing their involvement in pivotal military campaigns including Operation Overlord (D-Day and the Battle of Normandy), the Falklands Conflict (Operation Corporate), and both Gulf Wars (Operations Granby and Telic).

The final panel brings the story into the present, highlighting the Regiment's current capabilities, including the Mexeflote facility (a large float created to take cargo ashore), military cargo ships, and military diving operations. The mural not only serves as a tribute to the Regiment's operational excellence but also as a source of pride and reflection for those who serve and have served.

The 17 Regiment Dining Facility also hosts a monthly veterans' breakfast, offering former service members a chance to gather, reflect, and share their own stories—now surrounded by a powerful visual reminder of their shared heritage. This is extremely well attended, with retired Service personnel coming from all over the UK.

Richard Parkinson, Port Director at ABP Solent Gateway, said: "We are extremely proud to support the British Army and work closely with the Ministry of Defence through our operations at Marchwood Military Port and beyond. Contributing to this mural is a small token of our appreciation for the vital role the 17 Port and Maritime Regiment plays both locally and globally. It's a visual tribute to their past and present achievements."

Lieutenant Colonel Tom Goodall, Commanding Officer said: "The Regiment is humbled by the very kind donation from ABP; their generosity has made this incredible dedication to Army Maritime possible."

With ABP and 17 Port and Maritime Regiment working so closely together at the Sea Mounting Centre, it is very poignant for them to help capture such significant events in the Regiment's past and we look together to the future."



5th Marchwood Scout Group

We have been a little quiet recently, but we are still here and very active!



We completed our summer activities with our bi-annual Group camp at Butcher's Coppice, near Bournemouth, when Beavers joined the Scouts and Cubs camping, and the Squirrels visited for the day. Many different activities were enjoyed, from conquering the activity trail and making leaf casts, to trying archery and crate stacking, using pioneering skills with poles and rope, and having a great time whizzing through the air on the zip-wire, all together with our basic scouting skills

We now have sixteen Squirrels (Scouts aged 4-6 years) and have been enjoying ourselves recently, tasting new foods, cooking autumn squirrel cookies towards our Super Chef badge (thank you, Mr John), looking at the moon as part of our Space badge, and telling each other about our favourite things and adventures. We also had a go at pumpkin carving for Halloween. One Saturday in September, they joined with 240 Squirrels from across Hampshire for County Squirrel Day at Fernycrofts Activity Centre, where, amongst other activities, they experienced the Cave Bus and also crate stacking.



Earlier in the summer, our Beavers (Scouts aged 6 - 8 years) joined others from across New Forest Solent Scout District for Beaver Brave Day, when they had great fun trying new activities.

Thanks to their super Leaders — Otter, Lynx, and Kingfisher — they continue to have fun. Beavers started this term with a Teddy Bears Picnic and welcomed their new mascot, Bella the Beaver, to join Benji. At the end of September, they visited Lepe beach, where they carefully observed nature and all took photographs as part of their Photographer badge. Later, some of our Cubs spent an evening helping the Beavers to tie knots.

Alongside all their fun, Beavers have been thinking of those not as lucky as they are and showing their thoughts by contributing to the Food bank at the village Harvest Thanksgiving service. They have also thought about those people who do so much for them. They spent an evening, with the Parish Council's permission, cleaning some of the road signs in our Village. Our Beavers had another day full of new experiences when they joined with other Beavers from Hampshire—more than 200 of them! - at Fernycrofts





Whilst our Beavers and Squirrels were enjoying themselves at Fernycroft, our Cubs (Scouts aged 8-10.5 years) were also there - at camp - again! Over the weekend, they learnt several knots and lashings, then used them to build A-frames—thus working toward their Pioneering badge—thank you, Kev. (According to the Cubs, the worst part of camp was having to break these A-frames down again!) They also prepared and cooked their own supper: a vegetable stew on Saturday and a backwoods meal (no pans) for Sunday lunch! At meetings this term they have thought about how they can look after themselves by keeping fit and healthy, been amazed at how

many services and activities can be found in the village and tried to map them, have discovered a little about the festival of Diwali making miniature rangoli using sand, and visited Hythe Fire Station - thank you Danny as part of their Fire Safety badge.

Many of our Cubs joined others from New Forest Solent for a Camp Fire led by our District Lead Volunteer, enjoying a hot dog and drink whilst enthusiastically joining in the singing. Some Cubs also took part in the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), when Scouts from around the world attempted to make contact with one another...



For their Village fete activity, the Scouts (aged 10.5-14 years) made dinosaurs, which visitors then raced to find the fastest—great to watch! Since returning to regular meetings, they have had a great evening making and cooking pizza—always a winner! As the evenings have darkened, they have also put their map-reading and navigation skills to use with outdoor activities in the area and have many plans for the future.

If you think your child/children would like to join us, please talk to any leader or register through our website. It is better, if they are young, to add their name to the waiting list now rather than leave it until later and find there is no space for them!

Marchwood Village Hall

Marchwood Community Association Charity no: 1049276

We would like to say a 'HUGE' thank you to the Men's Shed for helping to replace our rotten, wooden planter in our garden over the summer. Also a big thank you to Rich Lewis from New Forest Developments and our wonderful Committee members for their help.

We are very excited to announce that Claire, formerly of Body & Soul at Forestside Medical practice will be moving into the Fern room at the Hall. 'The Little Beauty Haven' will open on Monday 3rd November and will offer bespoke skincare, relaxing massages and wellness treatments. Step inside and unwind. To book:

enquiries@thelittlebeautyhaven.com or ring 07818 858682.

GOGA will be returning to the Village Hall on Saturday 31st January. This yoga class combines animal therapy and exercise by moving through calm, yoga stretches. Escape modern day stresses and discover your inner kid! Make a note in your diaries as this gets booked up very quickly. To book contact Mucky Bucket Farm: hello@muckybucketfarm.co.uk.

We run Marchwood Tots every Thursday, term time. This is a fun, sociable toddler session for age 0-school age children. Join us for a coffee and free play from 9.30am-11.00am.

For enquiries for regular bookings or parties email:

info@marchwoodvillagehall.co.uk or ring Alli on 023 8066 7927.

The Crossings – how much time do you have?

We may say these words in jest when a story we have is likely to take longer to share than the hearer has time to give. We then may choose to summarise! But what is it like if you’ve had big life events and you need to share them... What is it like, for instance, if you’ve heard your landlord needs their property back? Maybe you’re a step on, and have moved out with only a car to sleep in or someone’s sofa somewhere. Most of us can fortunately only imagine these scenarios. But for a moment, imagining ourselves there, being given time to be heard is one of the most life affirming things to receive.

At The Crossings one of the most valuable things we offer people facing homelessness, or a housing crisis is time to listen. It may move on to suggestions for help or a way forward, it often does, but to be given time can’t be underestimated. So when our team volunteer their time and a listening ear, it might be life changing. A visitor from a couple of years ago sleeping in a tent at the time called a month ago. He was in a flat, in education, and had a car to get around in. He shared how powerful it was to be listened to and it helped him when he really needed it. That phone call prompted this article. For any of us, giving time to listen has a power we may never know. But one day we might just take that that phone call saying “thanks for listening”.

So what’s new?



Hythe library - Well, last month we marked World Homeless Day with a week at the library for our third year, this time joining with the NFDC. Homeless Officers attend Crossings drop-ins twice a month so we have a close working relationship to talk about. Kids could make a Duplo house and share a photo online or complete activity sheets.

Funds - as well as three years of NFDC funding, The Crossings were delighted to be awarded a £10,000 grant by Waterside Community Fund. We are so grateful to local organisations and individuals enabling this valuable work to continue.

Marchwood Fete - Looking back earlier this year, it was with great pleasure that we made a return visit to our local Fete back in July. We sold some donated books and plants to raise funds. It was great to speak to those who popped in to say hello. Thank you if you were one.



We continue to open, by appointment, at St John’s hall in Marchwood on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month.



THE CROSSINGS

“Support and relief to people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, vulnerable or marginalised.”



Contact us: 07486 551272

Charity registration number 1175115

www.thecrossings.org.uk

The Crossings is a Waterside Churches Together initiative



Useful Contact Numbers

Emergencies	
Police (non-emergency)	101
Flood line	02380 833000
Gas Leak emergency	0800 111 999
Electricity	105
Southern Water	0330 303 0368
The Environment Agency	0800 807060
Local Authorities	
Hampshire County Council	03005 551375
New Forest District Council	02380 285000
Marchwood Parish Council	02380 860273
National Park Authority	01590 646600
Helplines	
Age Concern	0238 036 8636
NHS (non-emergencies)	111
Citizen Advice Southampton	0808 278 7863
Childline	0800 1111
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Victim support	0808 178 1641
Domestic Violence helpline	0808 200 0247
Universal Credit	0800 328 5644
Home Heat Helpline	0800 336699
Health and Medical Services	
Southampton General Hospital	02380 777222
Royal South Hants (minor injuries unit)	02380 634288
Rethink (mental health advice and support)	0300 5000 927
Lymington Minor Injuries	01590 663101
Schools	
Marchwood C of E Infant School	02380 868819
Marchwood Junior School	02380 863105
Applemore College	02380 848804
Noadswood School	02380 840025
Hounsdown School	02380 862981

MARCHWOOD MUSIC FESTIVAL & FUN DAY!

**KIDS
GO
FREE!**

LLOYDS RECREATION GROUND

SATURDAY 18th JULY 2026 - 12.00pm - 10.00pm

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, GAMES, RIDES, TRAMPOLINE, ICE CREAM,
FOOD & DRINKS VENDORS, & MUCH MORE!



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT!

**BEER
TENT!**

KRAZY KEV'S MAGIC SHOW

DEBBIE D'S PARTY FUN & DISCO

THUNDERBOLTS & LIGHTNING

TAKE THAT - RULE THE WORLD



QUEEN - RHAPSODY

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM JAN 26' - MARCHWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

ADULTS - £12.00 - UNDER 16'S FREE