



MARCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 174



In this Issue

Chairman's Report, District and County Councillor, Marchwood Music Festival & Fun Day.

Nominate a local hero. Learn to speak French!

Published by Marchwood Parish Council

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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:

02380 860273 or email: office@marchwoodparish.gov.uk



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John Case

Chairman's Report



Welcome to the Spring edition of the Marchwood Village News.

It was good to see many of our residents enjoy our Christmas Fayre and support the Live Nativity at St Johns Church. I hope you agree that it was a splendid start to the Christmas festivities.

I want to thank all those people who gave up their time to make our village look splendid once again at Christmas.

As I write this column, I can't help but wonder if it did rain on St Swithin's Day last July, and we are belatedly suffering the consequences of 40 days of rain that the English folklore tradition predicts.

Well, it certainly makes the dark, gloomy days following the Christmas festivities even more depressing, despite the crocus, snowdrops and daffodils trying in vain to brighten our spirits.

Your council and officers are aware of the consequences of the now-familiar pattern of winter storms and the unfortunate flooding they leave behind, and we continue to work with other agencies to remind them that planning should be more acute to the dangers of climate change in their communities and ensure flood prevention is high on their agenda.

In recent years, we have been alerted to the term '*Riparian*'. Riparian refers to the land immediately alongside a natural watercourse, such as a stream, brook, or, in our case, traditional ditches that take rainwater from the nearby fields and open spaces that run through Marchwood to the River Test and Southampton Water.

Riparian landowners typically own land up to the centre of a watercourse and are responsible for its maintenance, including preventing pollution and clearing blockages. If your property has riparian areas, please ensure you undertake the appropriate maintenance.

We take our responsibilities seriously, and I want to express our thanks to our team who have once again done a splendid job along Cork Lane.

One of the most common complaints we receive in the parish office is the encroachment of vegetation by properties adjacent to the public right-of-way, which endangers or obstructs users of the many footpaths in and around Marchwood.

Under Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980, it is your responsibility to ensure that any trees or hedges under your control do not encroach onto a public footpath. It is not socially acceptable for residents using mobility vehicles, pushchairs, or prams, or for pedestrians, to have to step onto the highway to travel through our village.

This is antisocial behaviour, and we can all do something about it.

Therefore, to avoid violating the Highway Act, please ensure this aspect of your garden spring clean is at the top of your Things to Do List.

I don't know what this year will bring, but there are still many things to do and decide upon.

We await the decision on local government reform. Whatever the outcome, we will face opportunities and challenges as we await delivery of our new wheelie bins.

We were very disappointed that our bid for funds to build a pump track at Cork Field was not successful, despite meeting the eligibility criteria and the support of our District Councillors.

However, this will not deter us from exploring how we can better use Cork Field for all our residents, particularly our young people and those who enjoy the open spaces for exercise and relaxation. We are fully committed to making Cork Field an inclusive, safe recreational area for everyone.

We were also disappointed that plans to refurbish the 3G Courts were rejected, but the project will proceed. We intend to undertake this work as part of plans to improve Lloyd Recreation Ground, which includes a complete refurbishment of The Hub to enable more productive use throughout the day and year.

To this end, all Parish Council Meetings will be held at The Hub from the start of the new municipal year (April 2026).

I intend to announce further plans at the Parish Meeting on 27 April at the Marchwood Hub.

The development of Solent Gateway 2 will remain our top priority, and the parish council will continue to be involved in top-level discussions, as we have an excellent working relationship with ABP.

I see this as a significant opportunity for our village. It will only be successful if we continue to foster a healthy working relationship and promote honest, open communication networks, so we are informed throughout the planning and implementation process.

We want real, tangible benefits for Marchwood, including improved road routes to alleviate heavy goods traffic and paths along our busy roads. The path from Cracknore Hard to Autumn Road has been a great addition, so can we dream of a decent path from Marchwood Industrial Park along Normandy Way up to Byams Lane?

The 14-year delay for improvements to pathway that follows the stream from Kingfisher Way, passing under Bilberry Drive, through The Rushes, and the Shorefield Development, to connect with Admiralty Way and the new Cork Farm development is beyond a joke.

Why has it taken so long, and why have there been so many false starts?

It is not for the want of trying on the part of your Parish Council and District Councillors.

After all, it is our money, which, sadly, has been eroded by ever-increasing costs and inflation.

However, I am pleased to report that our clerk, Tina Dudley, has obtained some very significant information.

Yet, despite the footpath still not yet being formally approved and the works still needing to be scheduled into a work programme, we have been informed that the soon-to-be-defunct New Forest District Council will carry out this work on our behalf this Spring/Summer.

The lack of progress over the years doesn't inspire confidence, but we will nonetheless give NFDC the benefit of the doubt and keep you informed of developments over the coming weeks.

Hopefully, by the time the next edition is published we will be able to share more positive news.

Now is the time for me to shift to more positive topics.

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

We are promoting a genuinely inclusive event that appeals to people of all ages. It is not just renaming the popular *Party in the Park*; it will be a completely different immersive entertainment experience.

Lloyd Recreation Ground will be transformed into an amazing open-air festival in the days leading up to the big day. The stage will be larger, with an impressive lighting and amplification rig to match, allowing our acts to perform to their full potential.

The football pitch will be the arena, allowing more guests to enjoy an unrestricted view of the entertainment on offer while being roped off for safety and comfort from the many stalls, seating areas, side shows and food and beverage vendors, including our very own *Pub in the Park*.

The day kicks off at midday with engaging activities for our younger parishioners, featuring a Kids Disco, a magician, other entertainers, and a compere who will interact with the crowd throughout the day.

The evening will see a shift in emphasis; our impressive stage will showcase a very talented local band Thunderbolt and Lightning who are open to playing requests from the crowd, and we are pleased to announce two exciting tribute acts honouring two very popular British bands, Take That – Rule the World and Queen - Rhapsody.

Ticket prices and further details are available Email: office@marchwoodparish.gov.uk Tel: 02380 860273

It promises to be a fun day for everyone, and the news of the event is travelling far and wide. We even had ticket enquiries from as far as Portsmouth, and the folk along the coast know a thing or two about enjoying outdoor music festivals!

However, we will maintain high standards, comply with our public safety licensing requirements, and ensure that avoiding public nuisance is the paramount concern.

Therefore, no glass bottles will be permitted on-site, and alcohol will be available only from our licensed bar. If you are lucky enough to look under 25, you will be asked to prove that you are aged 18 or over when you buy alcohol.

So, there is no time like the present to secure your tickets – contact our parish office to purchase yours in writing, in person or over the telephone. We accept cash and all major credit cards.

I want to acknowledge the role that Southampton Football Club has played in our village life.

They kindly donated tickets for matches at St Mary's Stadium and have organised open days at Staplewood. We will continue to develop new opportunities, especially for our young people, during the summer.

Hopefully, the kindness off the pitch will be rewarded on the field as they press for an early return to the Premier League.

As usual, the flower beds and shrubbery were in immaculate condition for the Falklands Memorial Service and Remembrance Sunday. Our ground staff did our village proud as we remember those who gave so much for our freedoms, which we cherish to this day.

Hopefully, the carpet of spring-flowering bulbs the team planted last autumn is a fitting testament to their hard work and dedication.

We plan to continue planting additional pockets of flowering spring colour to enhance the many green open spaces and create colourful areas as we welcome spring.

It often goes unsaid, but Marchwood prospers from the many unsung heroes and community champions who go under the radar, undertaking a range of community service in their own time.

They are modest folk who enjoy what they undertake without expectation of reward or recognition.

We must respect that, but it shouldn't stop us from showing gratitude. Therefore, nominations will open soon for this year's Community Champion.

We want to showcase how much we appreciate what they do, starting with "Thank you".

See details on how to nominate on the following page.

Let's hope the weather improves to cheer us up as we look forward to Springtime, the lighter mornings and evenings, and being awakened by the *dawn chorus*.

In the meantime, if you have an enjoyable hobby, a story about Marchwood village life or its history, or want to share something our readership would enjoy and would like us to add it to our next edition, simply send an electronic copy, preferably in a suitable format, to our parish office, and we will endeavour to publish it.

I hope to see you at the Annual Parish Meeting in the Marchwood Hub, Lloyd Recreation Ground. Monday April 27th at 7.00pm.

Nominate Your Community Champions

The Parish Council would like to formally thank OUR hidden heroes our community Champions who give up their time to make a difference in the village.

Nominations must be received no later than 6th April 2026.

- *Let us know who you are nominating.*
- *Let us know why you are nominating this person.*
- *Why the volunteers help was important to the community.*
- *What is exceptional about the contribution made by the volunteer.*
- *How is the nominee an inspiration.*

A presentation will be held on Monday 27th April 2026 at the Annual Parishioners meeting, in the

Marchwood Hub, Lloyd Recreation Ground at 7.00pm.

Please send your nominations to office@marchwoodparish.gov.uk



Marchwood Parish Council Calendar of meeting April 2026 – March 2027

April 2026	13 April 2026 27 April 2026	Planning Committee Parish Meeting
May 2026	11 May 2026 18 May 2026 26 May 2026	Planning Committee Annual Council Policy & Resources (after BH)
June 2026	1 June 2026	Amenities Committee
July 2026	6 July 2026 27 July 2026 (6.45pm) (7.30pm)	Planning Committee Lloyds AGM Policy & Resources Committee
September 2026	01 September 2026 21 September 2026 28 September 2026	Planning Committee (after BH) Full Council Amenities Committee
October 2026	05 October 2026 12 October 2026	Planning Committee Policy and Resources Committee
November 2026	02 November 2026 30 November 2026	Planning Committee Planning Committee
December 2026	07 December 2026 14 December 2026	Policy & Resources Committee Full Council
January 2027	04 January 2027 25 January 2027	Planning Committee Amenities Committee
February 2027	08 February 2027 15 February 2027	Planning Committee Policy & Resources Committee
March 2027	08 March 2027 15 March 2027	Planning Committee Full Council

Meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees will be held in the Marchwood Hub, Lloyd Recreation Ground, Main Road Marchwood from 1 April 2026 unless otherwise stated on the notice of agenda.

Meetings 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.

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

Councillor David Harrison
Hampshire County Council



FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL PARK

One of the more interesting duties that I fulfil as your current County Councillor is as a Board Member of the New Forest National Park.

With so much going on in local government right now (including the abolition of the District & County Council), the one constant will be the New Forest National Park Authority.

At present the Board Members are drawn from locally elected Councillors like myself and Secretary of State appointed members. I am pretty sure that the way Boards' are populated will change in the future. Perhaps it will be fully elected. Nobody can be completely sure what changes will happen, although a more diverse membership would broadly be a good thing.

When consulted about which option for reorganising local government was the preferred option, the Board supported a bringing together of rural type authorities... the New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester and East Hants (book-ended by the two National Parks ... the New Forest and South Downs NPA). I think this is the best fit. I don't want to see the New Forest District split or forced into a new arrangement with Southampton City Council.

Another important change relates to where the National Park Authority is based. At present it occupies three floors of a pretty large office in Lymington, sharing with the District Council. It is really costly to rent and a major expense that deprives the Park Authority from doing things that would otherwise be used to benefit the forest. It's also ironic that the building isn't even within the National Park.

The exciting news that a deal has been concluded to purchase property at Foxlease, Lyndhurst, using a capital grant from government. In time, it will involve a move away from the Lymington offices. This will reduce overheads, allow for a different way of working and herald a new era whereby staff can work more flexibly and be more accessible in different parts of the district.

Many people are unaware of the very wide range of work that the National Park has a hand in. Some people even think that the NPA is responsible for bringing in unpopular car parking charges (it is in fact Forestry England). Probably, the best way of finding out for yourself is to look at the website <https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk>

You will quickly begin to understand that the status of the area and the work the NPA does brings in a huge amount of money for work that goes on in the New Forest, improving it for nature. It isn't just a planning authority. It is so much more

and achieves almost everything through partnership working and the fantastic efforts of an army of volunteers.

The board Members are well aware of their duty to conserve and enhance the forest through their decision making. It's about passing it on in a better state to the next generation. With this in mind I have suggested that we engage young people more in thinking about what we would like to see in the New Forest in 50 years' time.... long after I have disappeared! I hope they take up my suggestion. The danger is that an organisation gets swept up entirely in the pressing demands and deadlines of today.

As always I'm happy to hear from residents on this or any other work that I occasionally highlight in my roles as County Councillor.

E Mail: david.harrison@hants.gov.uk
Facebook: Councillor David Harrison
Website: dharrison.org.uk



Hello from your local neighbourhood team.

I would like to update you on the work that we have been doing lately.

The team have been really busy with investigations. However, we have also been out patrolling. There was an issue with ASB being reported at Lloyds Recreations Centre. Regular patrols were conducted by both PCs and PCSOs and it is good to report that there were very few incidents, and the youths were engaging with officers.

ASB and criminal damage seems to have decreased or not been reported. Can I please encourage people to report incidents via 101. It may be that we do not have the evidence to identify persons responsible but it gives our team an idea of what is going on and what are the problem areas and we can direct our patrols to that location.

The problem parking at the Marchwood Infant School is ongoing but parents who were spoken to understood why we were in attendance to ensure the safety of the children and other road users.

Kind regards PC 21816 Worthington

Councillor Richard Young

New Forest District Council



The new year is quickly upon us and already it heralds the arrival of truly significant potential change across Hampshire following the announcement from Government just before Christmas of Local Government Reorganisation, and the creation of new Strategic Authorities lead by a directly elected Mayor.

In early February it was confirmed that the current "top tier" local authorities of Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council, and Isle of Wight Council had their joint bid accepted by Government to be on the fast track for becoming a new Strategic Authority. Resultingly, the current District and Borough councils across Hampshire, like New Forest District Council, will likely cease to exist come the next scheduled District elections in May 2027. Exactly what the constitution of the new Unitary Authority will be for the New Forest area is not yet known, but it will have to be determined and formally proposed to Government before September 2026. My focus is as always, first and foremost working to achieve the best possible outcome for our Marchwood community.

Engaging regularly with residents as I do, I know that there is significant and reasonable local community concern about waterside communities like Marchwood being subdivided from the New Forest and potentially being made part of a "greater Southampton". I am however confident that this is NOT going to happen, as in the governments white paper, a clear instruction was given that all new Unitary Authorities must respect existing authority boundaries and not trigger a Boundary Commission review.

Whilst I do not believe that the change being imposed upon the way in which the New Forest is governed is necessary, or indeed wanted, by a majority of our residents, part of my duties over the coming months will be to help shape what our new Unitary Authority will look like. My starting position and personal preference is that we therefore explore linking up with similarly constituted authorities which share our mix of rural and semi-rural communities. To my mind Test Valley and Winchester are obvious potential partners with the New Forest having a combined population of around 465,000 and further shared interests with regards our precious National Parks (New Forest and South Downs). I will of course continue to keep all local residents fully updated on this important local matter via frequent updates to my social media feed just as soon as new information comes to light.

Onto other matters, I continue to work closely with numerous local residents and businesses alike on potential and substantive developments taking place in and around our community. The new care home under construction near the Pilgrim Inn is now well underway and I have maintained an open channel of communications with the developer, nearby resident's, and the councils planning officers to try to ensure that any issues arising from the construction phase are resolved or mitigated swiftly

for all concerned.

In recent weeks the "reserved matters" planning application for building 150 new homes at Corks Farm (adjacent to Admiralty Way) has been submitted and as such, I very much encourage residents to comment upon this application which focuses largely upon the design and layout of the proposed new homes, as well as significant areas of open space. Marchwood also recently hosted the launch event of the Waterside Partnership, a coming together of local landowners and businesses including Barker Mill Estates, ABP Southampton, ExxonMobil, Solent Gateway, Fawley Waterside, and Solent Freeport. The idea being that through cooperation and engagement with our communities we can collectively create new opportunities that enable our residents to prosper and to help ensure the long-term sustainability.

I particularly look forwards to seeing from Hampshire County Council later this year their finalised future proposals for the A326 and the opportunities it might afford Marchwood in terms of removing HGVs from far more sensitive village centre roads, and perhaps even stopping through traffic near the Infant School, plus finally making a much needed safe walking and cycling route between Marchwood and Dibden.

There is undoubtedly much to be aware of for members of our community over the coming year. For all the very latest updates I highly recommend following my Facebook page "Councillor Richard Young", and if you have any queries or concerns that I might be able to assist you with please do email me at any time via richard.young@nfdc.gov.uk

I wish you and your families well for the year ahead.

Councillor Richard Young

New Forest District Councillor for Marchwood & Eling Ward

richard.young@nfdc.gov.uk

www.newforest.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/councillorrichardyoung

The Crossings – seeing the community provide

Springtime is with us!

Looking back at the Wintertime we leave behind, it goes without saying that it's been a really hard time for people sleeping rough. We are hugely grateful for the funding and donations that enable us to continue. So it was in that context we were particularly heartened that in early February, within a day of each other, we saw the community provide:

Left over tents and sleeping bags from a New Forest campsite, a stock of mini toiletries ideal for those sleeping rough, and a new volunteer came forward to offer their time! When we give to a charity, we may see it in isolation as a small thing, but don't let that deter us from giving. So, we thank you as a community. As a Christian charity we would see this as divine provision and abundant provision at that, for it to come in the 'flurry' it did.



So what's new?

1st May marks an important milestone for the private rental sector in England; the **Renters' Rights Act 2025**. This long anticipated Government bill, now law, will bring key reforms. Three of these that we believe will help those who have visited our drop-ins include:



- Abolishing "no-fault" Section 21 evictions, ensuring landlords must provide valid, specified reasons to reclaim property.
- A blanket ban on "no pets" clauses, requiring landlords to act "fairly" considering pet requests on a case-by-case basis.
- New quality standards, applying the Decent Homes Standard and Awaab's Law to the private sector to tackle hazards like damp and mould.

"No fault" evictions, and what seems to be their mis-use, have been something we've seen our visitors facing at The Crossings and we're pleased to see the back of them. Tenants have come to us complaining of mould and damp and feel powerless to see change when landlords are slow to, or just don't respond. A familiar situation we find for those who come to us is the challenge to find a tenancy which will accept their pet (most typically a dog). The thorny issue of pets is addressed with the end of "no-pet" clauses. Are these new standards too much for the small landlord to bear? We need only go online to see the topic being debated at length. Of course the worry that landlords will sell up and increase the scarcity of accommodation is a real one. We love it when we encounter reasonable landlords who want to treat their tenants fairly. Let's hope enough stay to make private rentals work for both sides.

We open, by appointment, at St John's hall in Marchwood on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month as well as at Blackfield on Thursdays and Hythe on Saturdays.



Contact us: 07486 551272

Charity registration number 1175115
www.thecrossings.org.uk

The Crossings is a Waterside Churches Together initiative



Bonjour Marchwood

Have you ever wanted to brush up your French, Improve your pronunciation, or simply learn a few useful phrases for travel?

Our French Conversation group is a relaxed and welcoming way to do just that.

You don't need to be fluent - or even confident.

The group is open to all levels, from beginners who know a handful of words to more experienced speakers who want to keep their French fresh.

We practice using lively stories and everyday situations to spark discussion and keep things fun and engaging. It's an enjoyable way to build confidence and pick up new vocabulary along the way.

We meet on Mondays at 7.30 p.m.

If you would like to find out more information,

Please ring Diane on 02380 866970

PARISH UPDATE

Well, Christmas was so fun! Thank you for all who came along to join us for LiveNativity and all our wonderful Services. We welcomed 600 or so of you over the season! We are now excitedly looking at our Lent/Easter plans, which will very likely involve the farm again with some gorgeous animal babies!

In the meantime, we will be communicating news about our buildings both at St Mary's Church, Eling and St John's Church, Marchwood. We have several things to focus on. Many of you will know that St John's roof is in need of repair. We have now found new damage on the north side and thus are shifting our plan to aim for replacing the whole roof, as we are now aware that over time we will see more damage due to the age of the building and water damage over time.

Church buildings are the responsibility of the Parish PCC, not the wider Church of England, although any changes are subject to faculties to ensure the heritage and history of worship spaces are maintained. With this in mind, we need your help. St John's Church is not my Church or the congregation's Church or indeed the PCC's Church – despite being custodians. The Church building belongs to all of you. This is a space of encounter, exploration, revelation and community and is a historic landmark, linked to the shared history of this place.

We would like to ask each person, family, organisation and business if they might consider helping to financially support the ministry of the Church and the structure of this special place by donating to save the Church. The roof is the beginning, but we know the floor, foundation stones, and more will need significant work in the not-too-distant future and hope to move from firefighting to maintenance of the assets entrusted to us. In a perfect world this would mean doing a large renewal project to restore the building to a maintenance level, but let's see what we can do together first. I for one, will be thinking big.

We also plan to undertake work to both Churches to improve our disabled access and start a rewilding project for our graveyards - not to leave untidy, but to nurture nature and remembrance in these reverent spaces. So, do watch this space as we begin to communicate plans.

Coming up soon though? We have Prayer spaces opening in our Churches over Lent. Likely in the two Lady Chapels. St Mary's Church may not be open every day – but we are working on this! However, St John's will be open and

and both will have a reflective focus with prayer activities for all. Do join us as we pray – whether it's your first time or your millionth time, all are welcome to pray and explore prayer in the prayer space.

The last notice to communicate to you is a slight change to our service times and the launching of a new service. We have prayerfully thought about this and the PCC and the team believe this is the right way forward. We are stopping Open House (4pm) and looking to start a contemporary 11am service (with kid/youth provision which will develop over time). Therefore, we plan to move the 10am communion service to 9.30am, which gives time for the turnaround in the building for the 11am service. Coffee will be served at the end of the 9.30am service and start of the 11am to provide overlap to enable people to see one another.

The Communion service will remain at St Mary's Church Eling on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and the other Sundays at St John's Church, Marchwood. All at 9.30am. The Sundays when there is no communion we will have Morning Prayer or Taize or something similar so that both Churches have some form of worship every Sunday morning.

This change will not come into effect until after Easter. However, we are looking for leaders to join us! So, if you would like to be involved in a contemporary service at 11am and you have an active faith or are exploring, we would love to chat to you. All roles related to this – plus some extras like Foundation School Governor role/PCC Member role/Verger/Sides Roles are all on our website (www.marchwoodandelingparish.org) under 'Join the Team'. If you are unable to access this, email: info@marchwoodandelingparish.org and we can get a hard copy or emailed version to you.

God Bless and thank you for being such an amazing Parish,

It's a joy and privilege to be your Vicar!

Praying for you,

Rev'd Lauren Cheshire

Vicar of Marchwood and Eling Parish

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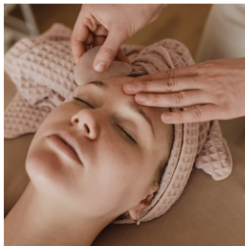
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www.solentbeauty.co.uk

Marchwood Twinning Association



Marchwood Twinning are looking for local residents to join them on their trip to St Contest in Normandy France. Our exchange weekend takes place over the weekend 23rd - 25th May 2026. 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.

We are hosted by French families who welcome us into their homes. You get to experience a bit of French life whilst having a great time. You don't need to speak French but if you can recall any from your school days its great fun trying it out.

If you want to have a no obligation chat about how twinning works and to find out more about our trip to France, please contact Keith Petty on 07986 353362 or email familypetty@outlook.com

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We've had a very a busy few weeks at Marchwood C of E Infant School! We really enjoyed the lead up to Christmas. The children all worked hard learning about the true meaning of Christmas through their RE work and by putting on Christmas performances for their families. Some Children visited the Oaklands Rest Home to spread a little Christmas cheer by singing carols, performing dances and sharing handmade Christmas cards with the residents. We visited St John's Church for our school Christingle service. All of the children were taught about the significance of the Christingle to Christian people. We enjoyed having parents into school to help us with Christmas Craft Day. Our school looked very sparkly in the lead up to Christmas. We have been very busy raising valuable funds for our school through a Christmas Raffle, Christmas Shopping Day, the Village Traders Evening and the regular sale of after school tuck on a Thursday. The money raised will be used to enrich the outdoor learning environment for the children and for subsidising upcoming educational trips. We're looking forward to our next fundraiser which will be a reading challenge for World Book Day! We're all very excited to explore the exciting new learning opportunities coming up in the Spring Term!

Children singing Christmas Carols, dancing and handing out Christmas cards to the residents at Oaklands Rest Home.



We had a visit from a special visitor who brought us some lovely Christmas gifts.



We've been very excited about using our new all-weather track! It means that we can get outside and enjoy the field in MOST weathers. All this rain has still made things a little tricky though. We're looking forward to some better weather soon!



The children made Christingles in school and thought about the symbolism of the Christingle for Christian people at Christmas time. We celebrated Christingle at St John's Church.



We loved putting on our Christmas performances. Year R children held their Nativity service at St John's Church. They retold and acted out the Christmas story so confidently!



Year 2 Children experienced a Victorian day in school and learnt about Victorian times at Beaulieu Motor Museum earlier this half term. This trip riches their learning journey this half term, which is all about the Victorian times, Queen Victoria and the changes that happened in schools during and after her reign.



Marchwood Village Hall

Marchwood Community Association - charity no: 1049276

We are very excited to announce that Trailblazers, a new western Dance and Music Club, born out of Phoenix C.M.C. will be starting here on the following Saturdays.
Saturday 13th June
Saturday 8th August
Saturday 10th October
Saturday 5th December

The music starts at 7.30pm until 10.30pm and the entry fee is £10.00 per person. Please come along and support the club as they hope to continue on a more frequent basis next year!

We are also very pleased to welcome Claire Mitchell from Hays travel to the Village Hall.

"My name is Claire Mitchell and I run my own travel agency business, with the backing of Hays Travel. I have been running my business from my home in Marchwood since October 2017, and am lucky enough to have a loyal local customer base. I am excited to be given the opportunity to work from the Village Hall, starting on Tuesday 4th February from 10 - 11am. Going forward, this will continue to be on the first Tuesday of every month.

Please do pop in to say hi. It would be lovely to meet you and discuss any holiday plans you may have for the future. "

We still have our bi-monthly Tea Dances here on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. They start at 2.00pm-4.00pm and are a great social group who would welcome new members.

The Gateway Community Church will be moving out to their new premises, at Hardley, at the end of March. We would like to thank them for the last 29 years of using the Village Hall on a Sunday morning and wish them all the best moving forward.

If there are any other local Church groups who would love a central Village location and would like to make use of our amazing facility please get in touch.

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Marchwood WI Spring 2026

We had a really interesting speaker at the January meeting, Peter Power, who spoke to us about the female operatives in the SOE...a top-secret World War 2 organisation (1940-1946).

The Special Operations Executive headquarters was based at 64, Baker Street, London, latterly ending up occupying much of the western side of Baker Street as the war progressed, but as many of you know, all the people who were recruited did their final training at "The House in the Wood" in Beaulieu.

These brave young women (some only in their teens) were trained in spying techniques, sabotage, reconnaissance, mortal combat, using a radio, how to parachute into a probably hostile environment and pass as a native speaker i.e. speak colloquial French or possibly Belgian...in enemy occupied Europe. Some recruited women had children at home which intensified the worry...Violette Szabo (GC), Odette Churchill and Noor Inayat Khan were well known female SOE operatives.

So many were captured and tortured and subsequently either immediately executed or sent to a concentration camp. Violette and Noor were among those. The house in Baker Street still exists and its corridors are lined with the photos of all the recruits, female and male.

The way that Peter illustrated the talk ...using AI to animate the photos of the SOE members and their male colleagues, seemed to make them less anonymous to ourselves and to see their smiling faces brought to life was really emotional.... bless them...so brave.

Here is the programme for the rest of the year up to and including January 2027.

I have included the monthly competition subjects as well.

The monthly competition (which usually has a link to the month's subject matter) and bloom of the month are voted on by the members, who put small amounts of money e.g. 10p or 20p on their favourites.

This money goes towards paying for the "Birthday Buttonholes" and also a gift of flowers or a plant if any member is not well, usually delivered by Wendy.

January 13th "Heroines, Hazards & Honours" Women of the SOE in WW2 Competition. What job would you have done in WW11 and why? 100 words.

February 10th "The Good, the Bad and the Downright Funny. Jackie Dimmock. Competition. A picture of your favourite TV Detective from any decade from any decade.

March 10th "Calming the Storm - Mindfulness" a talk by Yoga with Georgie Rand.

Competition. Share your favourite way to chill out. Written or an example.

April 14th **105th Birthday Party** Please bring a plate to share.

May 12th **AGM** and Time Detective Paul McNeil Competition. Who is the Baby? Bring your baby pic.

June 9th Plant and Produce Auction

July 14th Memories with Children's TV with John Lay-Flurrie Competition. A picture or toy of your favourite children's TV character.

August no meeting

September 8th Games Evening Competition. "Name the Bear" bit of fun!

October 13th A History of Corn Dollies with Sally Murdoch Competition. Decorated Wooden Spoon

November 10th Crafty evening Competition. Favourite Christmas Bauble

December 8th Christmas Party...please bring a plate to share

January 12th 2027 TBA Competition Best Christmas card received.

On Saturday October 17th we will be having our Education Day, this is when all our members are able to learn a new craft or skill, (or brush up on one they already have).

There will be four tutors in the morning session and four in the afternoon, teaching felting and corn dolly making amongst other things. This is totally free for the members and paid for by the various fund raisings throughout the year.

We are proud to be part of the largest volunteer women's group in the UK....is this the year you join us?

We are a friendly and welcoming group and an amazing 105 years old this year.... well done us!

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month (bar August) at 7.15pm in Marchwood Village Hall.

Judy Saxby
02380 866610



Adam Smith-Connor
Chartered Physiotherapist
T: 023 8008 9120
www.newforestphysio.co.uk
contact@newforestphysio.co.uk

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Free Seminars presented by Chartered Physiotherapist Adam Smith-Connor at New Forest Physiotherapy Clinic in Marchwood

Hip & Knee arthritis & Joint Replacement Surgery Mon 6th April at 6pm

Back Pain and Core Stability Mon 4th May at 6pm

Experienced physiotherapist Adam of New Forest Physiotherapy Clinic will be presenting these free seminars for the public at New Forest Physiotherapy Clinic, 40 Kingfisher Way, Marchwood, SO40 4XS. The Hip and Knee seminar will be of interest to anyone who suffers from arthritis or has had a joint replacement. The Back Pain seminar will be useful for anyone suffering from back pain and wishing to learn about its causes and treatment. Adam will also discuss the Hip & Knee Class and Back Care & Core Stability Class which are on Fridays at Marchwood Village Hall.

If you would like to come to one of these free seminars or find out more about the clinic please call Adam on 023 8008 9120. For more information visit www.newforestphysio.co.uk. We look forward to meeting you.

www.newforestphysio.co.uk, contact@newforestphysio.co.uk
T:023 8008 9120

What Is Osteoarthritis?

Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common type of arthritis caused by wear and tear of a joint, normally provides a smooth, gliding surface for joint motion and acts as a cushion between the bones. In OA, the cartilage breaks down, causing pain, swelling and stiffness.

What causes osteoarthritis?

Osteoarthritis occurs when there is damage in and around the joints that the body cannot fully repair. Your chances of advancing age. It is associated with a breakdown of cartilage in joints and can occur in almost any joint in the body, however, it most commonly occurs in the weight-bearing joints of the hips, knees, and spine. OA can be influenced by a number of factors, such as your age, weight and activity levels. OA usually develops in people over 45 years of age, although younger people can also be affected. It is commonly thought that osteoarthritis is an inevitable part of getting older, but this is not quite true. You may be able to reduce your chances of developing arthritis by doing regular, gentle exercise, maintaining a healthy weight and a healthy lifestyle.

Who's Affected?

Although OA occurs in people of all ages, it is most common in older people. Common risk factors include increasing age, obesity, previous joint injury, overuse of the joint, weak muscles, and genetics.

Managing osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis is a long-term condition and can't be cured, but it doesn't necessarily get any worse over time and it can sometimes gradually improve. A number of treatments are also available to reduce the symptoms.

Mild symptoms can be managed with simple measures including regular exercise to ensure the muscles surrounding the joint have good strength to support your body weight, losing weight if you are overweight, wearing suitable footwear and using joint supports to reduce the strain on your joints during your everyday activities. Supplements such as glucosamine, MSM (Methylsulfonylmethane), chondroitin, cod liver oil and turmeric can help ease joint pain by reducing inflammation and preserving cartilage.

If your symptoms are more severe, you may need additional treatments such as painkillers (eg paracetamol), anti-inflammatory's (eg Ibuprofen or naproxen), a structured low impact exercise program and physiotherapy (search for Newforestphysio on Youtube to see arthritis exercise videos).

If your symptoms are very severe a cortisone injection mixed with local anaesthetic into the joint will reduce inflammation and pain for a few months. If the damage to the joints is particularly severe surgery may be carried out to repair or replace a damaged joint.

If you are suffering from arthritis and it is affecting your ability to exercise and enjoy life visit www.newforestphysio.co.uk or call 023 8008 9120 for information about experience Chartered Physiotherapist Adam Smith-Connor and how he can help ease your symptoms and help get you back to doing the activities you love.

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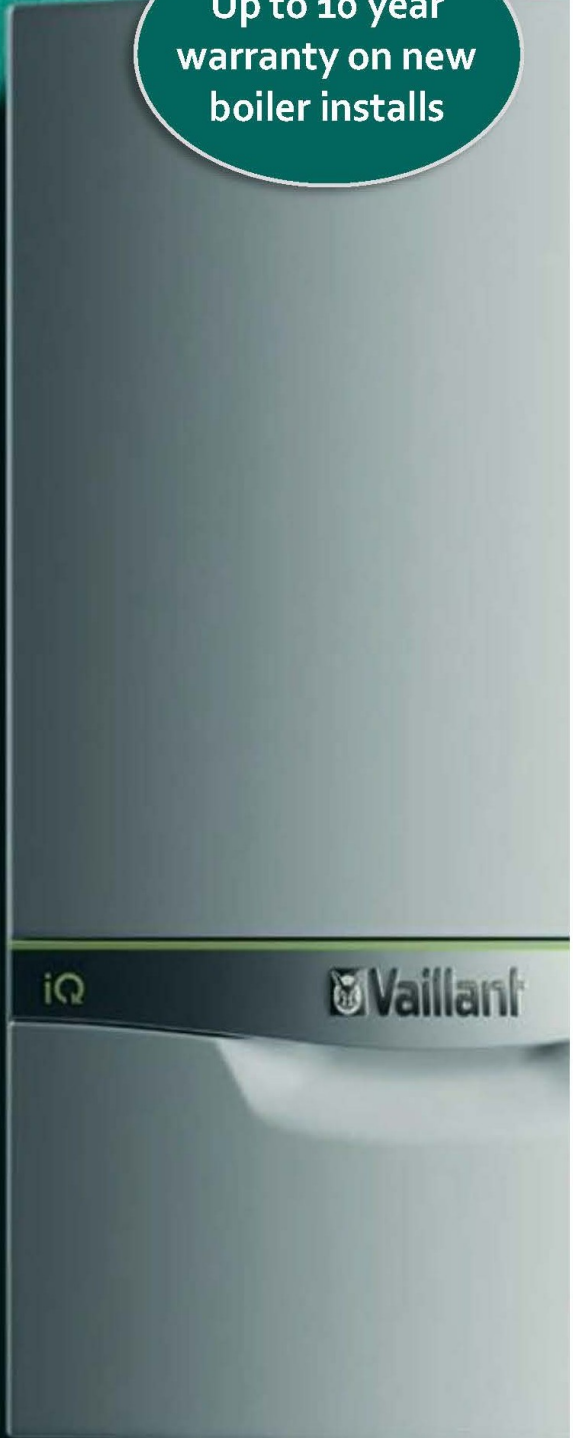
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We are currently full for this academic year and are now enrolling for the next academic year (September 2026- July 2027).

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We held our Messy Christingle service on December 22nd at St John's Church, Marchwood. This is always a lovely event as the church is decorated for Christmas and it's very special seeing all the candles glow in the darkness. We made our very own Christingle, along with other various Christmas crafts. We then had a short service explaining what the Christingle symbolised and all celebrated the Light of the World that brings hope to us all.



Our next Messy Church will be on **Saturday March 28th at St John's Church Hall, Marchwood at 2pm** where we will be celebrating Easter. Everyone is welcome and it's free!

Hope you can join us for a few hours of fun, creativity and refreshments.



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

Solent Gateway 2 - Summary of our first round of consultation

We would like to thank everyone who took part in our first-round consultation from 16 September to 13 October 2025 about our plans for Solent Gateway 2. Over the course of the consultation, we engaged with more than **1,200 people** and received **over 300 formal responses**.

The feedback we received has now been reviewed by the project team and will support the refinement of our proposals as our work progresses.

A summary of the most common feedback raised, along with our responses, was published in December 2025, and can be found on the document page of this website. Please visit www.solentgateway2.co.uk/documents

Key themes raised during the consultation

The most common themes highlighted by respondents included:

- Existing traffic congestion on the A326 and its effect on local air quality.
- The potential for reinstating the Hythe Ferry and opportunities for the introduction of new water taxis.
- The use of existing rail links for the importing and exporting of automotive vehicles.
- The use of existing railway level crossings and what this could mean for local traffic.
- The noise generated by additional rail movements.
- The potential resumption of the Fawley branch line for passenger transport.
- The amenities and facilities that could be included in the country park.
- The future management, maintenance, and ownership of a new country park.
- A guarantee that the country park will be protected from further port-related development.
- Identifying and mitigating any potential impacts on the protected wetland and intertidal habitats of the River Test and the Solent.
- The principle of building on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and other designated landscapes.
- How landscaping measures could manage visual and noise impact.
- Flood risk management, and the potential need for the inclusion of flood defences to ensure year-round access to the country park.

- Environmental mitigation and compensation as a legitimate means of protecting and enhancing environmental habitats.
- Green energy generation and its use on site.
- Areas covered by the Design Principles and when more information will be available.
- The type of junction that will be used to connect the proposed link road to the A326.
- The potential for an increase in traffic on local roads and in villages.
- Request for active travel routes connecting Marchwood and Hythe, with a focus on new cycle and walkways.
- The new jobs and apprenticeships that would be created as part of our emerging proposals.
- How the proposals would respect and promote local heritage.
- The potential for new / managed access to the waterfront, including footpaths and cycle paths.
- Working alongside and supporting local communities, groups, education providers, and businesses.
- Whether the site will only be used for automotive handling purposes.

What's next in 2026?

As the development of the project progresses, a number of key project milestones and engagement points are currently underway:

- Ongoing survey and reporting work across ecology, transport and marine to inform the scope of future assessments.
- Progressing of ground investigation surveys for marine and landside activities.
- Maturing the design of the developed areas and green areas.
- Extensive stakeholder engagement, including local authorities, parish councils, and the third Solent Gateway 2 Stakeholder
- Reference Group meeting in the spring. The second one took place in January.
- Continued promotion of our supply chain portal, launched last year for businesses wishing to express interest in working with us.

Engaging with local communities remains a priority and we look forward to our next public consultation later in 2026, where we will share more detailed proposals and

invite further feedback from local communities and stakeholders.
To stay informed and receive project updates, please register your details at:

www.solentgateway2.co.uk
Solent Gateway 2 – Surveys update



Marine and landside ground investigation surveys

Marine and landside ground investigation (GI) surveys started in February on the proposed Solent Gateway 2 site.
These surveys are standard procedure for large-scale developments, and all works have been assessed and approved by the relevant regulatory authorities including Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and New Forest District Council.

These investigations will establish baseline ground conditions across both the landside area and the marine footprint, providing critical data to inform the detailed design of the project as well as the associated environmental assessments.
Local residents may have seen an increase in activity at the site, including an increase in the number of vehicles accessing the site through Veals Lane. This collection of important data is to inform our design and environmental assessments. It does not constitute the start of construction.

By understanding the characteristics of the land and seabed at the outset, engineers and environmental specialists can refine designs, plan mitigation measures where needed, and ensure the project progresses in a safe, sustainable, and compliant manner.

Land interest questionnaires

We've also issued Land Interest Questionnaires to people and organisations who we think may have an interest in the land being proposed for Solent Gateway 2. This is a standard part of the planning process and being contacted in this way doesn't necessarily mean the land in question is going to be included in our final design for the project.

Solent Gateway Phase 3 and 4

The next stages of the Solent Gateway Limited (SGL) development are progressing well, with Phases 3 and 4 set to deliver significant new capacity across the site. In total, 32 acres of land will be developed into new operational space through these phases. This expansion represents an important step in supporting both MOD operations and ABP's commercial work.

Delivery is being supported by key partners including Knights Brown as construction lead, Arup providing design and engineering support, and New Forest District Council as the planning authority.



Next Generation Education Outreach Engagement

Our Next Generation Education Outreach Programme has been in full swing since its launch in October. Designed to spark curiosity and open students’ eyes to career paths they may never have considered, the programme is supported by ten ABP team members who are generously volunteering their time.

After our initial planning meetings, we kicked off the activity at Applemore College, where Marine Pilot Barry Sadler delivered an engaging presentation about the Port of Southampton and his role as a Marine Pilot to students from Years 8, 9 and 10. We also welcomed Southampton University students studying for a master’s in Logistics to the Port for a Supply Chain and Logistics presentation, followed by a tour of our Eastern and Western Docks.

January Activities

We started the New Year with three school engagement sessions as our Next Gen programme gathered even more momentum.

Redbridge School welcomed two of our speakers:

- Barry Sadler, Marine Pilot, who shared his career journey and explained the critical role pilots play in keeping Southampton moving
- Karishna Bunwaree, Project Engineer, who spoke about her work on major dredging and engineering projects and her pathway into STEM, highlighting the growing opportunities available to young people.
-

Hounsdown School hosted:

- Fay Draper, Cruise Manager, who offered students a behind-the-scenes look at cruise operations and shared her career journey—from working onboard cruise ships to managing them here at ABP.



What’s Ahead

In February, we return to Applemore College and will also be presenting at Solent University.

Looking ahead to March, we will be working with Hounsdown School to deliver port tours for their Year 9 geography students and to support their engineering and science fairs.

These sessions reflect ABP’s ongoing commitment to inspiring and empowering the next generation, showcasing the diverse and exciting opportunities across the maritime sector—from engineering and operations to sustainability and port management. Together, these efforts play a vital role in Keeping Britain Trading.

WW2 Whale Progress update

You will recall that in the Autumn 2025 we moved the WW2 Whale Bridge from the water (close to the Red Funnel ferry operation) to Solent Gateway. It is currently safely in storage while New Forest District Council approves the planning conditions for the refurbishment works. Once approved the works will begin and we hope the Whale Bridge will be on display acting as the Gate Guardian for ABP Solent Gateway later this year to celebrate the port’s long history of supporting the UK’s Armed Forces.



5th Marchwood Scout Group

.....and so 2025 finished with our Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs together visiting Jungle Jeans in Southampton for an evening of fun and games whilst the Scouts went bouldering!

Thinking of others, our Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs also gave Christmas parcels to nearly fifty Senior Citizens containing gifts they had made - a bookmark, a cheerful Christmas card and a note/card holder.

Meanwhile our **Squirrels** (4 – 6 year) have tried new food, learnt where different food come from and made their own snacks all towards their Super Chef activity badge. They have also discovered a little about the planets, astronauts and especially the moon to gain their Space Activity badge. More recently Squirrels have been having a go at the Exciting Experiments badge – testing out their senses and watching the reactions when different things come together. Great fun was had carving their own pumpkins for Halloween and watching their sparklers glitter for Guy Fawkes night. Squirrels have looked to take care of their environment and completed a litter pick across the recreation ground getting beautifully wet and muddy in the process after the recent rain! They have also learnt a little about how Chinese New Year is celebrated and made their own puppet dragons. Every week Squirrels play games, listen to a story and take part in a special activity all the time having fun joining in and aiming to gain their Challenge Awards. At the end of a special evening the Squirrels formed their circle and helped Acorn - their leader – to make her Scout promise before all giving her a hug.

Our **Beavers**, (6 – 8 years) meanwhile are also looking at their Space Activity badge. They have visited the Observatory near Romsey and had a great time, watched videos of space craft and learnt about astronauts and the space station, made their own model rockets together with viewing earth from space. They also had a great time carving pumpkins for Halloween. Sparklers were enjoyed in November whilst learning how to be safe when using them. Earlier in the year Beavers visited Lepe country park where they looked for and then took pictures of wild life they found as part of their Photographers badge before having an amazing time in the playpark. Like the Squirrels their meetings are full of activities and games helping them to achieve their Challenge Awards.

Along with the Cubs, our Beavers took part in an Advent Challenge – completing 26 activities before the end of December – all those successful received a Christmas blanket badge to mark their achievement.

Cubs (8 – 10.5 years) have also been busy over the last few months. Amongst the activities they have accomplished has been the making of bird

feeders – the noise was LOUD as they all hammered the nails at the same time!! These are now hanging in gardens ready for the birds to find! The Cubs have also been looking at the various ways in which they can remain healthy - from cleanliness when they discovered with the help of a UV light - how difficult it was to make their hands REALLY clean, to exercising and eating sensibly. They have also visited Hythe fire station to learn about fire safety and gain their Fire Safety Activity badge. Like the Squirrels and Beavers, the Cubs have also been looking at space from recognising the planets and their features, tracing the earth's daily and yearly journey, looking at how astronauts prepare for their journey and stay in space to finding star constellations in the sky. Cubs looked at different ways in which they could send messages to each other from speech to writing to sign language, trying to learn BSL and using codes, emails and text messages. Several of the Pack took part in JOTA/JOTI (Jamboree of the Air/ Internet) when Waterside and new Forest Amateur Radio Club helped them talk to Scouts from other countries – Germany, Switzerland, the Caribbean and places nearer home were reached that weekend.

Members from all the sections of our Group attended the Remembrance Day service at the Parish church when representatives laid a wreath on the groups' behalf and then poppies – made by the Cub Scouts – were 'planted' to remind us all of the field of Flanders.

The **Scouts** meanwhile have also been busy. Amongst their many activities they were visited by a paramedic who helped them take their Emergency Aid knowledge to a higher level especially when practicing CPR. They spent one evening becoming part of 'Master Chef' with each Patrol competing against the others, with some lovely but unexpected results. They have been shooting too. Later in the term the Scouts hoping to take part in their Expedition Challenge so during several meetings they have been looking at the skills and knowledge needed to successfully achieve this award.

Several of the Troop with their leaders took part in the Monopoly Run in London – a physical re-creation of the board game held each year.

All sections have a 'training scheme' which is a combination of Challenge Awards and activity badges. We are really pleased to say a big **'WELL DONE!'** to Willow for achieving her Chief Scouts Acorn Award before jumping down the tree and across the river to become a Beaver and to Harry for his Chief Scouts Bronze Award, before swimming under the river to become a Cub Scout.

2026 is a special year for the three younger sections of the Scout movement as Squirrels are now 5 years old, Beavers are 40 years old and Cubs are 110 years old!

Special activities to celebrate these birthdays are being held throughout the

year. New Forest Solent Cubs have been challenged to complete as many as possible of a list of activities - to which they can add their own, possibly to total 110! - before the end of the year, when a special blanket badge – designed by Cubs from our District themselves through a competition - will be given to all participants.

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



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MARCHWOOD CANDLES

MARCHWOOD VILLAGE Easter Market

MARCHWOOD VILLAGE HALL, SO40 4SX

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21ST MARCH 11AM | MARCHWOOD VILLAGE HALL

- This event is **FREE** and open to the public
- Food & Drinks will be sold
- Locally handmade products, jams & preserves
- Totton Ukelele Group
- Wood & Laser engraved products
- Fabric Makes & Embroidery
- Mandala & Handmade Soap
- Candles, Wax Melts & Home Scent
- Free From Gluten Cakes
- Novelty Items
- Local Honey
- Easter Egg Hunt under 9yrs old

TO BOOK A STALL PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO: MARCHWOODCANDLES@GMAIL.COM

 **Oaklands Rest Home**
Our speciality is you



Forget-Me-Not Café

Every fourth Friday of the Month at 2 - 4pm

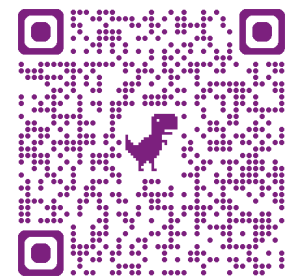
A friendly, monthly cafe for people living with memory loss, their families, friends and members of the local community to come together.

Join us at Oaklands Rest Home to connect in a supportive space over tea, homemade cake and conversation.

📍 Oaklands Rest Home, Veal's Lane, Southampton, SO40 4WW

No booking required – just come along.
Friends, families and carers welcome.

Scan the QR to help us prepare:



Call **02380 845759** for more information or visit our website at oaklandsresthome.co.uk

Spring is an uplifting time of year for many of us as we watch the natural world burst into life

Spring is the prime time to prepare UK gardens by clearing winter debris, pruning shrubs, and feeding soil with compost. Focus on weeding borders early, planting summer-flowering bulbs, and mowing lawns on high settings to encourage growth. Protect new shoots from slugs, clean patio areas, and set up water butts.

Once the soil is warm enough, you can start planting potatoes and onions and sowing hardy vegetables, including broad beans, cabbages, carrots, radishes, lettuce, rocket and spinach.

March and April are good months to plant perennials, sow hardy annuals such as marigolds, and plant summer-flowering bulbs, including lilies and gladioli. Prepare your beds in late May by removing weeds and digging and raking the soil to a fine tilth.

Want to create more plants for free? As daffodils and other spring bulbs die back, start dividing crowded clumps to spread them out for next year.

Key Spring Gardening Tasks (March–May):

Soil and Lawn Care: Clear debris, rake lawns, and apply mulch to beds to retain moisture. As the soil warms, add compost or organic matter to boost nutrients.

Pruning and Tidying: Prune winter-damaged branches, hydrangeas, and roses. Trim shrubs like *Cornus* and tidy up borders.

Planting and Sowing: Plant summer-flowering bulbs like lilies and gladioli. Sow hardy vegetables directly outside, such as carrots, lettuce, rocket, spinach, and beetroot.

Maintenance: Clean patios, garden furniture, and greenhouses. Clean out and check irrigation systems.

Wildlife: Clean bird feeders and bird baths. Avoid disturbing nesting birds, especially when trimming hedges.

Ensure all frost-sensitive plants are protected if planting early.

Top plants for spring pollinators in the UK include early-blooming bulbs like Crocus and Grape Hyacinth, perennials such as Lungwort (*Pulmonaria*), Primrose, and Hellebores, and shrubs like Flowering Currant (*Ribes*). For summer-long impact, sow annuals like Borage, Cosmos, and Cornflower in spring. These provide vital nectar and pollen for emerging bees and butterflies.

Best Spring-Blooming Plants (for planting/flowering in Spring)

Crocus (esp. *C. tommasinianus*): Crucial early pollen and nectar source.

Pulmonaria (Lungwort): High-nectar, early perennial adored by bees.

Hellebores (Christmas/Lenten Rose): Early, long-lasting nectar source.

Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari*): Excellent for pots, loved by honeybees.

Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*): Native, essential for early pollinators.

Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*): Shrub that provides abundant food.

Wallflowers (*Erysimum*): Long-flowering, great for bees.

Forget-me-nots (*Myosotis*): Popular with many pollinators.

Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*): Provides vital early pollen for bumblebees.

Best Annuals to Sow in Spring

Borage (*Borago officinalis*): A magnet for honeybees.

Cosmos: Easy to grow, flowering all summer.

Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*): Great for butterflies and bees.

Californian Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*): Good for bees.

Tips for Success:

Choose open-centred flowers: These allow easy access to pollen and nectar.

Avoid pesticides: Ensure plants are safe for bees.

Plant in sunny spots: Most pollinator-friendly plants prefer sun.

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What does it take to become a host family?

You will need to be able to provide a bedroom and bathroom space, as well as a nutritious breakfast/evening meal.

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Please scan the QR code for more information about this great opportunity.



SOUTHAMPTON V MANCHESTER UNITED

SATURDAY MARCH 28TH 2026 • ST MARY'S STADIUM • 3PM KO



Christmas Goodie Bags

This years festive goodie bags were sponsored by Pococks, Asda, Tesco, Lotem Graphics, Premier Marchwood and the Marchwood community. Many thanks to everyone involved.

As always it was a pleasure to deliver them to nominated members of the community and to members of the Solid Silver club.

If any local businesses are interested in helping continue this initiative this Christmas, please get in touch at gary_james_wright@hotmail.co.uk.



Marchwood Litter Pickers

Thank you to everyone who came to the October and January litter picks, where we had 35 and 32 volunteers respectively. Across these two events, 34 black sacks of rubbish were collected. We also collected 4 bags of crushed cans to raise money for Hampshire Air Ambulance.

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

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

Since the last edition of the Village News, Marchwood Men's Shed received the exciting news that we were a finalist in the National 'Shed of the Year' awards! Considering there are over 1,100 sheds across the UK, this is a great achievement. Whilst we weren't winners on the day, it was an honour to be shortlisted, and to represent Marchwood at the Houses of Parliament for the ceremony.

We had been asked to make a memorial bench for Marchwood's Ben Pavitt who sadly passed away from cancer in October 2021, aged 16. The bench was to be installed at Noadswood, where he attended school. The bench features a rainbow design, as Ben liked to sit and think on the rainbow bench in Marchwood. It was a privilege to attend the unveiling of the bench in October along with Ben's family and members of the school team.

In addition to this, we made a human fruit machine for Marchwood Junior School PTFA to help them with their fundraising efforts and provided the Scouts with some bird box kits and helped them with construction. We also had a very successful stall at the Christmas Fayre and it was great to see so many members of the community there. Thanks to your support, we raised £1000 that we will use to fund more projects to benefit the village.



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

We have had some great sessions so far this season, including Coppicing and trying to establish a Bluebell wood at Marchwood Infant School, coppicing and bramble clearance at Marchwood Junior School, reclaiming some of the Cork Field meadow from the brambles, and coppicing in Crooked Hayes Copse.

This year, much of the coppiced wood has been donated to Hythe Men's Shed, who use it to make walking canes. Marchwood Men's Shed are hoping to receive a lesson on this skill in the future so that they can also produce these handmade items from locally sourced, sustainable materials.

The image on the right below shows the scalloped areas cut into the brambles at Cork Field. This technique creates sheltered areas for butterflies and other insects.



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.



Have you ever been punished for a misdemeanor you didn't do? It's not something any of us would wish for, though I've heard of people (illegally) accepting someone else's penalty points on their driving licence to prevent that person being disqualified. Occasionally more serious miscarriages of justice occur, and we are rightly shocked and angered by them when the truth is eventually revealed.

Throughout history there have been many such incidents. Consider, for example, the plight of young Barnaby Fitzpatrick who, while still a child, was appointed 'proxy for correction' or 'whipping boy' for the future Edward VI. As the son of King Henry VIII and his third wife Jane Seymour, it was considered inappropriate for the young Prince Edward to be whipped or beaten by his schoolmaster, so his class-mate Barnaby was punished in his place.

As we approach Easter, it's good to remember that Jesus did the same. About four hundred years before he was crucified, the prophet Isaiah wrote *'All of us, like sheep, have left God's path to follow our own. Yet the Lord has laid on him the sins of us all.'*

Unlike Barnaby Fitzpatrick, who sometimes got into trouble for his own wrongdoings, Jesus was completely sinless. He accepted our punishment willingly, dying in the place of everyone who acknowledges him as their Lord and Saviour.

Rather surprisingly, Edward and Barnaby became the best of friends, and after Edward's coronation at the age of nine, Barnaby was honored by the King and became one of his closest companions. Jesus, too, was rewarded for his sacrifice – rising from the tomb, before ascending into Heaven to be with his father, God.

Why not join us at the Gospel Church to discover more about Jesus, and his offer of forgiveness. Our Good Friday Communion (3rd April) and Easter Sunday (5 April) services will be held at our Church building in Long Lane at 10.30 am. 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 main School holidays.)

Tuesday 10-30 – 12.30: Connect Café. Hot drinks and home-made cakes for all.

Wednesday 10.30 – 11.30: Tots, Tales & Tunes. Babies and pre-school children with their parents/carers.

New Friday 3.15 to 4.45 Tea & Toast. Families are invited to stop by The Gospel Church on the way home from school for free tea and toast (other drinks are available!). There will be as much toast as you like, followed by games, then finishing with a sing song and Bible story. A great introduction to church for our younger ones.



MARCHWOOD MUSIC FESTIVAL & FUN DAY!



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