



MARCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 175



Summer 2026

In this Issue: Chairman's Report, District and County Councillors,

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:

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



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Councillor Nigel Buckett

Chairman's Report



Hello, let me introduce myself, I am the new Chairman of Marchwood Parish Council, which is a tremendous honour to represent this wonderful and diverse village.

Firstly, I would like to give my thanks to my predecessor John Case who has so ably chaired the council for the last four years. John's heart was dedicated to improving the quality of life in Marchwood for residents of all ages and ensuring that the village gets the best value and service from the district authorities and innovations in improving our finances in these difficult times. John has been an immense help and mentor to me since I joined the council in 2022, and I hope that I can continue where he left off. His standards will be a very worthy goal to set myself for the future.

Marchwood is facing some complicated challenges in the near future and needs a strong council to face these.

Firstly, there are the ABP proposals for the Solent Gateway 1 and developments at the former military port. As a council we have worked very closely with ABP to ensure the best outcome for the village, whilst recognising the overall economic benefit of the proposed Freeport. The initial plans have been published, and local consultations have taken place, with the feedback published by ABP. Further consultations on the revised plans will take place this year, with the design of the new A326 junction being a very important factor to be considered. As a council we do not want HGV traffic transversing the village.

This links with the HCC proposals for the A326 upgrade which have now been published. We have been asked to comment on the schemes which include the closing of the Marchwood end of Twiggs Lane, and a new layout for the Staplewood Lane junction. There is also a plan for the ABP SG 1 and 2 double roundabout near the Pilgrim pub, which has yet to be agreed with ABP.

The village is coming under pressure from new housing proposals. The Cork Farm development has been approved by NFDC, even though this council turned down the plans. This will consist of 150 housing units as houses and flats and include affordable housing, with a new entrance off Normandy Way. There are also plans to build 800 to 1000 houses on the current Barker Mills land between Marchwood and Eling, which will put considerable pressure on existing amenities and infrastructure.

Concerns are high about the increase in traffic on the Jacobs Gutter Lane/Bury Road/Main Road, the environmental issues and the current capacity of local schools.

Allied to this is the loss of the Forestside surgery in Marchwood, with no plans currently in place with the NHS to replace this important amenity. Patients of this surgery now have to go to the treatment centre in Dibden, which, if you cannot drive or don't own a car, is two bus rides away. For a village such as this with many young and elderly people with no form of transport is unaccessable, and in years to come with the new housing will make obtaining medical care, a staple deliverable community service, increasingly challenging. As a council we are seeking prompt answers to this issue.

This leads onto the worsening local public transport in Marchwood. The Office of Rail and Road have turned down the Alliance Rail Ltd. Proposal to open up the current rail line to a passenger service, and the Blue Star bus company has rerouted its No. 8 service to exclude Pooks Green and Tavells Lane, without any consultation with the village. As a community of over 6000 residents, many of whom are without transport, we deserve more than an hourly bus service, and we will be working hard in the future to improve this, especially given the probable significant increase in population due to the new housing.

A major issue in the area has been the outcome of the Local Government Review, and that the Waterside area will be in the Southwest unitary authority with Southampton, Eastleigh and parts of the Test Valley district council. As a council we have had at our last full meeting representation from the New Forest Together group regarding MPC support for a judicial review. MPC have supported this, but we have major concerns about the remit of the new unitary councils, the role of the mayor and how this devolves to local town and parish councils. Removing a layer of government means that there is a risk of local administration being saddled with delivering services that are not funded and, that as the lowest tier of government we are not qualified to manager or deliver and cannot afford. This is an issue that we shall be keeping a watch on for our community over the transition period.

It's good news that finally, after 11 years of waiting, NFDC have finally started work on renovating our pathways, and as a council we would welcome your comments on the overall quality of the work.

We have an exciting music festival coming up on 18th July, with Take That and Queen tribute bands. There is children's entertainment, bar, food stalls and more. Please come along and enjoy what will be a fabulous day, tickets are £12, under 16's are free, and all the proceeds will go towards the village funds to provide more amenities for the village, especially focused on delivering more for the youth of the community.

Finally, we need more councillors, as John has retired and other members wish to step down. If we do not have a quorum of 5 by the next elections in May 2027 we could be subsumed into Totton and Eling or Hythe and Dibden, which would mean losing our local autonomy, so please let the office know if you are willing to join and help in maintaining our wonderful village as an excellent place to live and bring up your children.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their devotion and time spent working for this wonderful village, and our staff for all their hard work supporting us.

What do Councillors do?

Councillors are elected members of local government; they conduct their business within a legal framework and are responsible to all the residents within the area. Councillors serve a four-year term, they are community-minded people with a desire to participate in shaping the future of their area.

Councillors work to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents they represent. They bring about improvements through local projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parish and towns and public bodies.

They can influence and shape the long-term development policy for the area, and as part of the planning process, comment on planning applications.

Councillor requirements:

You can become a councillor if you are 18 or over on the day you submit your nomination paper and are a British, Commonwealth or European Union Citizen* and at least one of the following:

- A registered local government elector in the parish area in which you wish to stand as a candidate
- Occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of the election
- Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the date of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish area
- You have lived in the parish area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of the election

The Parish Council now has three Councillor vacancies.

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

The vacancies will be filled by co-option at a Council meeting.

Nominations are invited and should be sent in writing to the Clerk at the address below.

Tina Dudley, Clerk to the Parish Council
Address: Marchwood Village Hall,
The Village Centre,
Marchwood,
SO40 4SF.

Councillor David Harrison

Hampshire County Council



I would like to start by thanking all the residents who voted in the elections on May 7th. I am thrilled to have been given a further mandate to serve you, albeit for two years, (Hampshire County Council will then be abolished).

The new authority promises to be an interesting place, with a record number of new Councillors filling the seats. I think I now qualify as a local government veteran, having been first elected to Hampshire County Council 21 years ago.

It is somewhat of an unusual period, with Local Government Reorganisation already underway and a further election for a new "Super Council", that includes Totton & The Waterside joining with Southampton and Eastleigh, expected to take place in May next year.

Of course, I am well aware of a vigorous campaign "New Forest Together", aimed at stopping the whole process and particularly the very unpopular plan to split the New Forest district in two for governance purposes. I am supportive of the campaign, but we will all have to see whether political pressure or a legal challenge can change anything.

My delight at getting re-elected was somewhat dampened by the news that the campaign to restore a rail passenger service to Marchwood appears to have hit the buffers. The Office of Road and Rail have declined to issue the company behind the scheme the necessary licence to operate a service.

I think this news makes it all the more important that we get better bus services through the village. It would also be great if we could get the Hythe Ferry up and running again. Obviously, I will try and do what I can to support both objectives, but these things are largely dependent on commercial interests, and I won't pretend I have much influence in my Councillor capacity, especially given the state of finances local government is in.

Maybe, we can achieve something completely new by a different approach? I am in active discussions about use of the neglected railway line from Marchwood to Hythe as an "Active Travel Route", for walking and cycling. I have visited other areas where former rail routes have been transformed into attractive walking and cycling routes and tried them. I can vouch for their popularity. They are usually very level and bordered by attractive vegetation.

Yes, I am well aware that it will be expensive to rip up and remove the infrastructure, but maybe the materials can be repurposed to defray the cost? I do like a project!

Please do let me know whether you think this is a good idea or a waste of time. I have long believed that we need a safe means of walking and cycling south of Marchwood, towards Hythe, in the same way as we enjoy the off-road facility to Eling.

Maybe it won't happen before I finish my service for Marchwood, but these things are to be looked upon as planting oak trees, for the next generation to sit under!

Councillor Patrick Mballa

New Forest District Council



Thank You for Your Support

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the many messages of support and well wishes I have received following my prostate cancer operation. I am pleased to say that my recovery is progressing well, and I am gradually returning to my normal routine and council commitments.

Prostate cancer remains a silent killer that affects men of all ages. Unfortunately, routine PSA screening is not currently available through the NHS, resulting in many men receiving a diagnosis at a much later stage than they should. Given the advances in treatment and outcomes when the disease is detected early, this situation is unacceptable.

As a result of my own experience, I am now actively campaigning for improved access to early screening for men, with the aim of saving lives through earlier diagnosis and treatment.

Phase 3 Wheelie Bin Rollout

I was pleased to see that New Forest District Council took on board lessons learned from previous phases of the wheelie bin rollout, leading to significant improvements during deliveries in Marchwood and Eling.

A number of issues were raised with me by residents, and I was delighted by the swift response from the NFDC Waste and Recycling Team in resolving them. Thank you to everyone who reported concerns.

Please continue to report any issues and follow the collection guidance to help ensure that our waste and recycling services remain efficient and effective.

Residents may also apply for a free replacement or additional recycling bin, subject to eligibility criteria and available space at the property. To apply, email your name, address and request details to customer.services@nfdc.gov.uk or contact NFDC Customer Services on 02380 285000.

Marchwood GP Surgery

The closure of our local GP surgery in Marchwood has caused significant disruption and concern for many residents. With further housing growth planned for our area, the pressure on healthcare services is only likely to increase.

These concerns have been compounded by recent changes to appointment booking arrangements at Forestside Medical Practice in Dibden, alongside ongoing issues relating to transport, accessibility and connectivity.

Marchwood residents deserve better healthcare provision and access to local services. A joint letter from Marchwood Parish Council will be sent to Forestside Medical Practice outlining our concerns and seeking constructive engagement on these issues.

I remain committed to campaigning for improved healthcare provision and will continue to press for the return of a GP surgery within our village.

Local Government Reorganisation

I strongly opposed the proposed Local Government Reorganisation and voted against it at the recent New Forest District Council meeting.

I am also concerned by the substantial cost of pursuing a Judicial Review and question the commitment of local authorities to fund such action at a time when councils are facing increasing financial pressures in delivering essential services, including adult social care, children's services, SEND provision and local infrastructures.

However, it is important that residents voices are heard. If a Judicial Review proceeds, there must be a clear, transparent and accountable process to ensure that the Government is properly challenged to reconsider its decision on Local Government Reorganisation and to stop playing politics with the future of our communities.

The New Forest is a unique rural community that should be protected and preserved as a whole.

Meeting Residents Face-to-Face

At a time when our village faces a number of important challenges, communication is more important than ever. Regular engagement allows me to listen to residents' concerns, discuss local issues and work together to find solutions.

I would be delighted to meet you at one of my upcoming community drop-in sessions as scheduled:

- 27th of June 2026 – 10:00am to 11:00am – Mill Café, Eling Tide Mill
- 12th of September 2026 – 10:00am to 11:00am – Marchwood Village Square
- 10th of October 2026 – 10:00am to 11:00am – Mill Café, Eling Tide Mill
- 14th of November 2026 – 10:00am to 11:00am – Marchwood Village Square
- 12th of December 2026 – 10:00am to 11:00am – Mill Café, Eling Tide Mill

I look forward to meeting as many residents as possible and hearing your views on the issues that matter most to our community.

Kind regards,

Patrick

Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour

Sadly, the Parish Council receives information regarding anti-social behaviour on regular occasions.

More recently, the newly installed goal posts at Cork Field were vandalised having only been installed a matter of days.

We receive many reports of anti-social behaviour at the Lloyd Recreation Ground. Having kept the gates open on the tennis courts for all to enjoy, a large number of broken glass bottles were scattered on the courts, empty nitroxide canisters were found another newly-installed basketball nets were destroyed. Unfortunately we were forced to close the gates and prevent out of hours use.

Due to anti-social behaviour late at night on the Lloyds car park we will be locking the gates from 4pm – 8am weekdays. The gates will be locked during the weekends.

Parking will be limited to organisations hiring the facilities by prior arrangement.

Unfortunately, these two areas are not the only places within the village where vandalism is taking place.

Please: Report antisocial behaviour

If this behaviour is not reported police resources will be directed elsewhere.

[Report antisocial behaviour | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary](https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/)

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Come and meet us

Marchwood – Lloyd Recreation Ground, Main Road

Sunday 19th July 2026 – 15.00hrs

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www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime



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In an emergency always call **999**

Deaf? Non-emergency text **07781 480999**

For more information visit www.hampshire.police.uk



Councillor Richard Young

New Forest District Council



Over the past few months, I have (as always) strived to do what I feel in my soul is best for the communities of Marchwood and Eling, even while I have been facing some significant personal challenges. Recent health struggles, including repeated hospitalisations and rounds of kidney surgery, have truly tested me both physically and mentally, but they have only strengthened my resolve to always put our community first.

In late March, I announced a change in my political affiliation. This deeply deliberated and difficult decision came from an unshakeable desire to try to deliver real improvements for local people and to meaningfully address the multitude of issues that I believe matter most to residents here. Through it all, my focus has 100% always stayed firmly on Marchwood, Eling, and the wider New Forest area.

Healthcare access remains one of my top priorities. I have continued advocating strongly for the return of GP services actually physically located in Marchwood, keeping residents updated and pushing for solutions that work for our sizeable village. No community of circa 6000 residents should feel abandoned when it comes to essential local healthcare.

On the infrastructure front, I have recently shared the county council's new proposals for the A326 Marchwood Bypass. In short, I make no apologies for recognising the fact that the A326 as we currently know it demonstrably no longer fulfils its primary purpose of being a bypass around most of Marchwood. Therefore, doing nothing with the bypass in my view only condemns Marchwood to decades more misery of our primary school age children and parents running the daily gauntlet of walking alongside rat running traffic which puts the most vulnerable members of our community at risk and blights our village environment. Something simply must now change with the A326.

I have also been actively involved in the campaign to protect the identity of our Waterside communities within the New Forest as part of the "New Forest Together" campaign. I feel passionately about the ongoing fight against proposals that could see the Waterside area separated against the will of the local people from the rest of the New Forest. Centuries of shared culture, history, and identity run deep through our towns and villages — Marchwood, Eling, Totton, Hythe, and others — and I am determined to help keep them together as one proud part of the New Forest.

In mid-April, I (perhaps cheekily) encouraged residents across Marchwood, Eling, Totton, Hythe, and surrounding areas to consider using "New Forest, Hampshire" in their postal addresses rather than "Southampton." It is a simple but meaningful way for us to celebrate and reinforce our distinct local identity, and many of you have shown lovely support for the idea.

Throughout these months, I have continued responding as promptly as possible to everyday concerns from residents — from missed recycling collections, bin deliveries, to other practical issues — and shared regular updates via my Facebook page. Despite my health setbacks, including post-surgery recovery periods that meant some absences, I have stayed as engaged as possible because representing you well is what matters most to me.

Looking ahead, I remain fully committed to championing our strong community spirit, securing better local healthcare, delivering necessary sensible infrastructure enhancements, and above all else preserving our New Forest identity. Our community comes first with me, always. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly if there is anything that I can potentially help you with — whether by email or through Facebook. Together, we can keep making Marchwood and Eling an even better place to live.

Wishing you and your families a very happy and healthy summer ahead.

With best wishes,

Rich

Councillor Richard Young

Email: richard.young@nfdc.gov.uk

Facebook: "Councillor Richard Young"

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or email southamptoncoordinator@readeasy.org.uk

We are happy to visit organisations to give a presentation. If you would like to discuss this, or any other ways you can help our group, please contact Diane at newforestconnector@readeasy.org.uk

Volunteering opportunities can be found at readeasy.org.uk/groups/southampton

Rev'd Lauren Cheshire, Vicar of Marchwood and Eling Parish

Well, my family and I have been here in Marchwood for just over a year, and I can say for sure that this place is home and we are overjoyed to have been called here. Not only that, but to have the privilege to be the Vicar of Marchwood and Eling Parish is just incredible.

It felt right to give you all an update on what the focus has been on this year and what is to come.

The first year as a Parish Vicar is often one of observation, understanding and trust building. That has been my experience. We have introduced a few changes but nothing very visible. We have been working on things like the website, updating policies, safer recruitment and creating a funding strategy for the essential building work at St John's.

The PCC explored hiring an Operations Lead and, amazingly, my husband was chosen to fill the role. Due to the obvious conflict of interest, I had no input in that decision – however, I'm deeply grateful for the PCC's wisdom as Mark brings a wealth of wisdom to the role. Mark has been working on our governance and funding for the most part, as well as being in the parish office during the week and managing admin and occasional offices. I must also thank the PCC, both those who recently stepped down and those stepping up, and our Wardens, all of whom have been a huge support in this first year.

There have been very helpful conversations over this year about how we support the community, particularly with the Parish Council. This has taken many forms, and we are excited as plans continue to develop. Being a Church, our priority is to pray and seek God to lead us as we share the good news of Jesus with our community.

I would like to use this opportunity to share an aspect of work that concerns the whole community of Marchwood, and that is the state of St John the Apostle Church building.

This incredible place has stood here long before the Marchwood of today existed.

The village has grown around the Church only in the last 60 years. The Church building has served the military during significant moments in the country's history as Marchwood filled with brave young men preparing to set off to Normandy from this very village. Again, in the Falklands conflict, Marchwood was a hub and later a place of remembrance for those who lost loved ones.

Much more could be said, but least to say, the Church building is a symbol of our shared heritage. As the building shows signs of needing full restoration,

we are asking you to help us, not only with fundraising, but in helping us tell the story of this place and the Church as we put together an ambitious bid for the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

This is a very big piece of work as the building has significant issues with the entire roof, floor, walls and thus needs a full restoration. Also, we hope to have a community café space with displays about our history and the story of Marchwood and the Church over the years.

We are asking our community, local businesses, schools to get involved. Perhaps to tell the story, to do art projects around what the building means to you, perhaps helping with the significant match funding needed when going for large grants such as National Lottery Heritage Fund. Together we believe we will not only save St John's Church but create a worship space and heritage space for all to enjoy for years to come.

Marchwood Village Hall

Marchwood Community Association reg. Charity no: 1049276

We currently have spaces for hire both mid-week and at weekends, particularly on a Sunday morning. If any home Church group are looking at expanding then please get in touch. We have a lovely, bright hall with stage and storage potential.

Solid Silver Group- a social , over 60's group that meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm-3.30pm. We have quizzes, entertainers and speakers so why not come along and drop in for a cuppa.

The cost is £2 per. session.

Marchwood Tots- Thursday mornings, term time. A friendly parent/carer toddler group where you can meet other parents and your child can enjoy free play.

From 9.30am-11.00am. Cost is £1.70 per. child and 20p per. extra child.

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Marchwood Twinning Association

A small group of us travelled from Marchwood, at the end of May, to our twin town St Contest in Normandy. We were welcomed in the evening by our French friends with a reception provided by the mayor.

Following a restful night with our hosts we set off to Falaise to visit the castle. We were all given electronic tablets to take round to each room in the castle which provided us with a virtual image of how each room would have looked in the days of William the Conqueror, who was born here. The weather was very hot and so it was really nice touring the lovely cool rooms in the chateau.

After a very interesting tour we all went to have a picnic lunch in a nearby community room. This was followed by a coffee in a local bar where we could watch the world go by.

We then visited a local social enterprise where they employ disabled staff to run a shop selling products like jam, wine, cider, patés and fresh vegetables. All of these items are also provided by organisations supporting disabled employees. After a very interesting day it was back to our host families to enjoy a tasty dinner.



On Sunday we went to Arromanches, a seaside town that was Gold beach in the D Day landings. We were invited by our hosts to have an apéritif on the beach not only to raise a glass to our friendship but also to celebrate Marie's birthday, who is the president of St Contest twinning.



In our group photo you can just make out the big blocks in the skyline. This is what remains of the Mulberry Harbour created for landing supplies after D-Day. This has a strong link to Marchwood as lots of the elements of the Harbour came from our village. In fact we also visited the museum in the town, and they had a display naming Marchwood as one of the ports used.



After our beach drinks we went on to a seaside restaurant to enjoy a delicious four course meal accompanied by wine. By chance there was also a local link here, they served us muscadet wine, produced by Totton's twin town on the Loire.

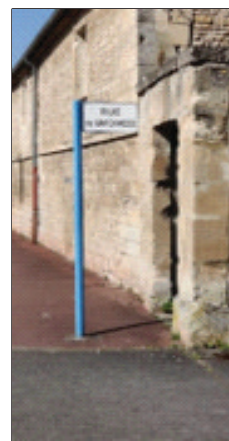


After a day at the beach we were invited to a buffet dinner at one of the homes of our



During the evening I was given stickers depicting the twinning logo, for year 5 children at Marchwood Junior School. Marchwood Twinning has been invited to give a small presentation to the school children as part of their geography project.

On our final day, before we travelled home on the ferry in the afternoon, we had some free time with our hosts. Some people in our group visited Caen. I took the opportunity to take some photographs of St Contest to show the children at the Junior School on our return.



We all had a great weekend and would like to thank the French committee for organising such an interesting programme and the host families who welcomed us into their homes.

Our twinning association aims to further links with our twin town in France and we are always keen to welcome new members. We hold weekly French conversation evenings on a Monday night and also have a few social evenings during the year.

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

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Marchwood WI Summer 2026

Singing, Dancing, Singing and DNA!

Unbelievably, **Marchwood WI** is **105 years old!**

In all those years, membership has remained steady and we currently have 41 members, which is fantastic, we have done those founding members proud! Our current president Debra Rich and her cousin Jenny Davis had relatives among those first WI ladies and all throughout the years since.

We had a super birthday party, with other members of the **Forestside Group** invited and much dancing to the wonderful **Hannah Evans**.

Hannah sang a variety of songs, many of which, everyone knew the words to, a bit of nostalgia really plus the terpsichorean involvement never thought I'd see the day! Together with a wonderful buffet provided by the members it was an evening to remember.



In May, it was our AGM and prior to the official business, we had a really interesting, illustrated talk by **Paul McNeil**.

Paul, as some readers will probably recognise, is one of the genealogists on **DNA Journey** on ITV. Paul is a brilliant and engaging raconteur and held us all spellbound with his own DNA journey and how his interest in discovering his own family background and ancestors began and has continued to become his career.

He also showed us some excerpts from the TV programme about the various celebrities who discovered facts about their own forbears and how the filming of the programmes doesn't always go to plan. Having one's DNA done, can lead to all kinds of surprises.



Our WI Choir, led by **John Bell** our very patient choirmaster, goes from strength to strength and at the beginning of May, **Marchwood WI** Singers were invited to join the **Marchwood Music Society Prelude Orchestra** for their Spring Concert which was in aid of Tourette Syndrome research.

The theme was "**Out of this World**" and we sang "**Fly me to the Moon**", "**By the light of the Silvery Moon**", "**Aquarius**" from the musical Hair and..." **Catch a Falling Star**" in two-part harmony! It was our first experience of singing in front of a paying audience, which was somewhat daunting.

However, it was a wonderful evening and much enjoyed by everyone, performers and audience. The Prelude Orchestra and its offshoots, Saxophious, Flutes of the Forest and Marchwood Clarinnotes were wonderful as was the conducting and arranging of the various pieces by Bernard Chinonso and our own John Bell. Absolutely brilliant!



During May, some of our members were invited to afternoon tea at two local care homes, **Oaklands** in Marchwood and **Westcliff Hall** in Hythe. It was lovely to meet some of the residents and enjoy some time with them and the care home staff.

As usual some of our members will be entering some arty, crafty, bakery etc. categories in the WI tent at the **Hampshire and New Forest Show** at the end of July. We wish them well and will publish the entries and results in the next edition of the Village News.

In October we will be having our biennial **Education Day**. This is free to all members and gives them a chance to learn new skills or refresh their knowledge of old skills. Learning things is so good for our brains and hands!

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

Judy Saxby Marchwood WI

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Marchwood Litter Pickers

Thank you to the 35 volunteers that took part in the April litter pick, collecting 20 black sacks of rubbish. We also collected 2 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 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

As usual, the Men's Shed have been busy with community projects over the past few months: We were delighted to present Merceode Lodge with a bird table at their grand opening; We've delivered Hedgehog Houses to Marchwood Junior School to support the work of the Marchwood Conservation Volunteers; We've delivered 12 welly racks, and 4 guttering play towers to Marchwood Infants School; A potting table and 2 large low planters have been delivered to Little Gardners Nursery and a sandpit frame to Mulberry Pre-School.

Where possible, we use donated materials to make these items so that we can deliver them free of charge to support our local organisations. In the case of the projects where we have had to purchase materials, these costs have been covered by grants obtained by the receiving organisation with contributions towards fixings etc made by the Men's Shed.



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 (and quite often cake!), 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

Marchwood Conservation Volunteers break during the Spring and Summer growing months, monitoring the work carried out in the previous season and planning next seasons activities. We were pleasantly surprised see that the bluebells planted at Marchwood Infants School flowered this year as we only planted them last year, hopefully they will spread over the years to come. We had a great ID session at Cork Field Wildflower meadow in May, with 32 plant, 15 insect and 16 bird species identified.



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 Walks

We had the first bat walk of the year in May, which was a great chance to get out around the village at Sunset and observe the bats and other fascinating wildlife that we have on our doorstep. Many thanks to Lisa for leading the walk with her fantastic expertise, and to Abby and Megan for bringing monitoring kit and sharing their knowledge with the group.

If anyone is interested in attending future walks, drop me an email to gary_james_wright@hotmail.co.uk and I'll keep you in the loop.



The Crossings – “hi, I’m new here...”

It’s summertime and, amongst other things, a popular time to move home. We all know what it’s like to move house - so much to do beforehand, loads to sort out when you’ve moved in! If it’s to a new area there’s even more to get your head round. Wherever you’re moved to, it can be an exciting but also challenging and sometimes, frankly, exhausting process.

At The Crossings we have a service we offer for those moving into new accommodation who have been homeless.

Whether due to job loss, relationship breakdown, new to independent living, it is often a make-or-break time. People we help are referred to us either from New Forest District Council or from our own drop-ins.

Quite possibly they’re moving to an area new to them where they don’t know anyone. Help getting established without family, friends or a kind neighbour, this can be tough. For those who have physical or mental health challenges or are vulnerable, support at this time is a real lifeline.

When we first meet the individual we agree together on the practical support to be provided and 2 trained volunteers make up to 8 visits either to their home or in the community, as suits. It’s quite humbling supporting someone at this key stage in their life. We’ve found it tough but a hugely satisfying role. Maybe it’s one that chimes with you? If you’d like to be part of what The Crossings is doing, we’d love to hear from you.

We also run our drop-in centres across the Waterside: At St John’s Hall in Marchwood by appt. on 1st & 3rd Wed of the month and at Blackfield on Thurs and Hythe on Saturdays.



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Fun was had by all at Messy Church! We celebrated Easter and focused on the cross and new beginnings. We heard about forgiveness in the Easter story and about Jesus' love for us. All the children enjoyed making a large Easter garden which was then left on display inside St John's Church. We also went on an Easter egg hunt around the church grounds! Reverend Lauren introduced us to her Silkie chick, which everyone enjoyed meeting.

Messy Church is a free, community event for families where you will be made very welcome. We will meet again on **Saturday July 4th at St John's Church, Marchwood at 2pm**. We hope the weather will be good so we can play some outside games.



Messy Church is a collaboration of Marchwood churches 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



Staplewood Pitch Renovations



Throughout May, and continuing into June, work has been taking place at Staplewood, to improve the quality of our football pitches ahead of the new season. The top photo shows the old surface being removed before the pitch is treated and fresh sand is worked into the ground to help create a stronger, healthier playing surface. The two lower photos show the progress being made, with the bottom-right image showing Pitch 4 once the work had been completed. These improvements are an important part of our annual maintenance programme and will help keep the pitches in great condition for players throughout the year.





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Mulberry Preschool, Marchwood – Nurturing Young Minds Through Play and Discovery



At Mulberry Preschool, we are proud to provide a warm, welcoming, and stimulating environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive. Located in the heart of Marchwood, our experienced and caring team supports children aged 2–5 years as they begin their educational journey.

We believe that children learn best through play, exploration, and meaningful experiences. Our curriculum is designed to promote confidence, independence, creativity, and curiosity, helping every child develop the skills they need for a successful transition to school.



Throughout the year, children enjoy a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, music and movement, outdoor learning, storytelling, early literacy and numeracy, and opportunities to explore the natural world. We place a strong emphasis on developing social skills, building friendships, and encouraging a love of learning from an early age.



Our spacious outdoor learning area is a particular highlight of the preschool. Children have daily opportunities to explore, investigate, and develop their physical skills through play in a safe and engaging environment. Whether they are digging, planting, building, climbing, or discovering wildlife, outdoor learning is an important part of the experiences we provide. The children also enjoy growing their own fruit, vegetables, and herbs, learning where food comes from and taking great pride in harvesting produce that we can enjoy together as part of our healthy snack times.

As part of the local community, we enjoy taking part in seasonal celebrations and events, helping children develop a sense of belonging and connection to the village.

We are pleased to announce that we have availability for the 2026–2027 academic year. Families looking for a nurturing preschool environment are warmly invited to get in touch to learn more about what we offer and arrange a visit.



Choosing a preschool is an important decision, and we would be delighted to show you around and answer any questions you may have.

For more information about Mulberry Preschool and our available places for 2026–2027, please visit our website at www.mulberrypreschoolmarchwood.com or email us at office@mulberrypreschoolmarchwood.com. We look forward to welcoming new families to our preschool community.

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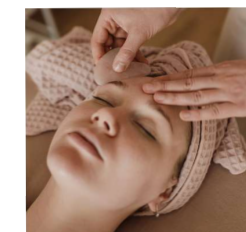
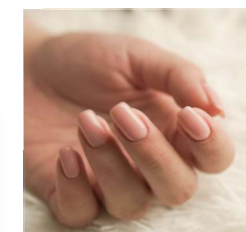
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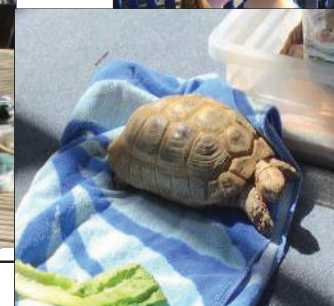
It's been another busy term full of fun and learning in Marchwood C of E Infant School! Here's just a selection of the things that have been happening in school. If you'd like to find out more then take a look at the 'Latest News' section on our website.



Children in Year R visited Longdown Dairy Farm as part of their learning about Amazing Animals. They learnt lots about the animals on the farm and even got to hold and feed them.



We celebrated Easter at St John's Church in Marchwood. Year R sang a lovely Easter song, Year 1 made Easter Bonnets and Year 2 retold the story of when Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.



Pet Day in Year R was lots of fun!

The children met a horse, dog, rabbit and a tortoise. They found out lots of information about these animals and how to care for them as pets.

We've been trying hard to make playtimes more exciting for the children. The children have enjoyed using lots of new and donated equipment to build dens, dress up and use their imagination in the most wonderful of ways!



We were visited by Barry from ABP who talked to the children about the Port and explained about the different ships that come and go. The children were fascinated by what they learnt and Barry couldn't believe how knowledgeable our children were!



In Gardening Club, children have been working hard to grow their own vegetables to eat. Children have been working on their fitness and stamina in Cross Country Club this term too!



We were kindly donated new laptops for the children to use. This generous donation came from a Year 2 parent, Mr Cooper and his employer, Quilter. This donation is very much appreciated. Regan said, "The laptops are great! They're so much quicker and brighter than our old ones!"



Our school charity this year has been Oakhaven Hospice. Mrs Gant, one of our teachers walked 26.2 miles for the Oakhaven Charity walk on the 16th May and we had a special charity day in school, "The Green Mile" where the children were sponsored to walk or run as many laps of our new track as they could. We'll find out soon how much money was raised in total for Oakhaven Hospice.



We took part in a Saints FC Football Festival at the Staplewood Training Ground. 20 children from KS1 attended. They learnt lots of new skills and played games against other schools in the area.



We've got some new Marchwood C of E Infant School sports hoodies to wear. The children can now proudly represent our school at sports competitions looking super smart!



Adam Smith-Connor
Chartered Physiotherapist

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“Qualifying from Birmingham Uni in 1994, I’ve worked for the NHS, Army & BUPA. I specialize in musculoskeletal conditions such as arthritis, back pain, whiplash, shoulder injuries, tennis elbow, ankle sprain, knee pain & joint replacement rehab. If you’re suffering pain I can help you.”

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Adam Smith-Connor is Chartered Physiotherapist at New Forest Physiotherapy Clinic in Marchwood. Training at Birmingham University, he qualified in 1994. His first job was in Sheffield at the Northern General Hospital, where he developed an interest in sports injuries and orthopaedic surgery rehabilitation. Adam has worked at the World Masters swimming competition, for the Armed Forces, NHS and Private Health sector.

Prior to setting up New Forest Physiotherapy Southampton Adam worked at BUPA Southampton Hospital where he built a close working relationship with local Orthopaedic and Neurosurgeons. He has a Post Graduate Diploma in Rehabilitation Science from Southampton University, which included modules on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Extended Scope Practice in Spinal Pain, and Principles of Rehabilitation. Research proposals by Adam include Exercise Performance at High Altitude and Joint Position Sense following Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction.

Adam is a member of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and registered with the Health & Care Professions Council. He treats all types of musculoskeletal pain including back pain, whiplash, frozen shoulder, tennis elbow, knee pain, sprained ankle and rehabilitation following orthopaedic surgery including total knee replacement, total hip replacement and back surgery.

Visit www.newforestphysio.co.uk or call 02380089120 for more information.

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Since 1992, the highly regarded Oakhaven Hospice in Lymington, Hampshire, has offered palliative care to patients, carers and families across the New Forest and Waterside who are facing complex physical, emotional and practical difficulties surrounding end-of-life. Making every moment matter: whether at home, in hospital or in the hospice, the emphasis is on the quality of care. "It's not the years in your life but the life in your years!"

Now also incorporating Totton, Oakhaven provides specialist medical and nursing care; counselling and bereavement services; physiotherapy, complementary therapies, education and training and a wealth of social, health and wellbeing support. A team of wonderful volunteers assist in a variety of roles including bereavement support, fundraising, gardening, chaplaincy, hospitality and retail.

With statutory income providing only 11% of annual running costs, 89% must be raised by the Hospice. This is achieved by donations, fundraising events and activities, charity shops, gifts in wills, lottery, investments and the social enterprise home care provider Oakhaven Care Ltd.

For more information, visit www.oakhavenhospice.co.uk

Media enquiries to Tanya Baddeley at:

tanya.baddeley@oakhavenhospice.co.uk.

Charity registered in England and Wales No. 900215

Join the family of Oakhaven volunteers!

If you have a little spare time, would like to meet new people and share your experience or gain new skills, consider becoming a volunteer for Oakhaven Hospice.

Over 400 people volunteer for Oakhaven Hospice throughout the New Forest, Totton and the Waterside. Volunteer Services Manager, Laura Veal, explains how they make such a difference to the charity.

"Our volunteers are simply amazing: they give their time and energy to support Oakhaven, bringing a wealth of experience along with their commitment to wanting to help others and make a difference. Without the support of our volunteers, we simply wouldn't be able to do what we do.

"When people ask what they could do as a volunteer for Oakhaven Hospice, the short answer is 'almost anything'. Volunteers support our work in every department. Some support the people and families we care for in the Hospice and in the Coates Centre, others welcome visitors to Oakhaven and some help in administrative roles. Our 'Neighbours' volunteers visit patients in their own homes across the area. A large number work in our charity shops and donation centre, whilst others assist on an occasional basis with fundraising activities or with a particular skill - such as photography, e-commerce, driving and cookery.

"We are always looking for new people to join our team. Giving the gift of your time to Oakhaven can be such a rewarding experience. For some, it is a way of giving back to a charity that has helped family or friends. For others, it is a great way to meet new people, make new friends and feel valued as part of a team. Some people volunteer to gain skills and experience at the start of their career, whilst others give their existing skills and knowledge to help others.

"Our volunteer roles can be as flexible as you need them to be. Some roles have a set rota, where you can commit to a few hours a week, for example. Others are much more flexible.

"On behalf of everyone at Oakhaven, I would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers for the time that they donate. We are always looking for new volunteers, of all ages - please do get in touch for a chat about how you could help your local hospice."

For more information, please visit www.oakhavenhospice.co.uk/volunteer or contact Laura on **01590 646447** or at volunteering@oakhavenhospice.co.uk.



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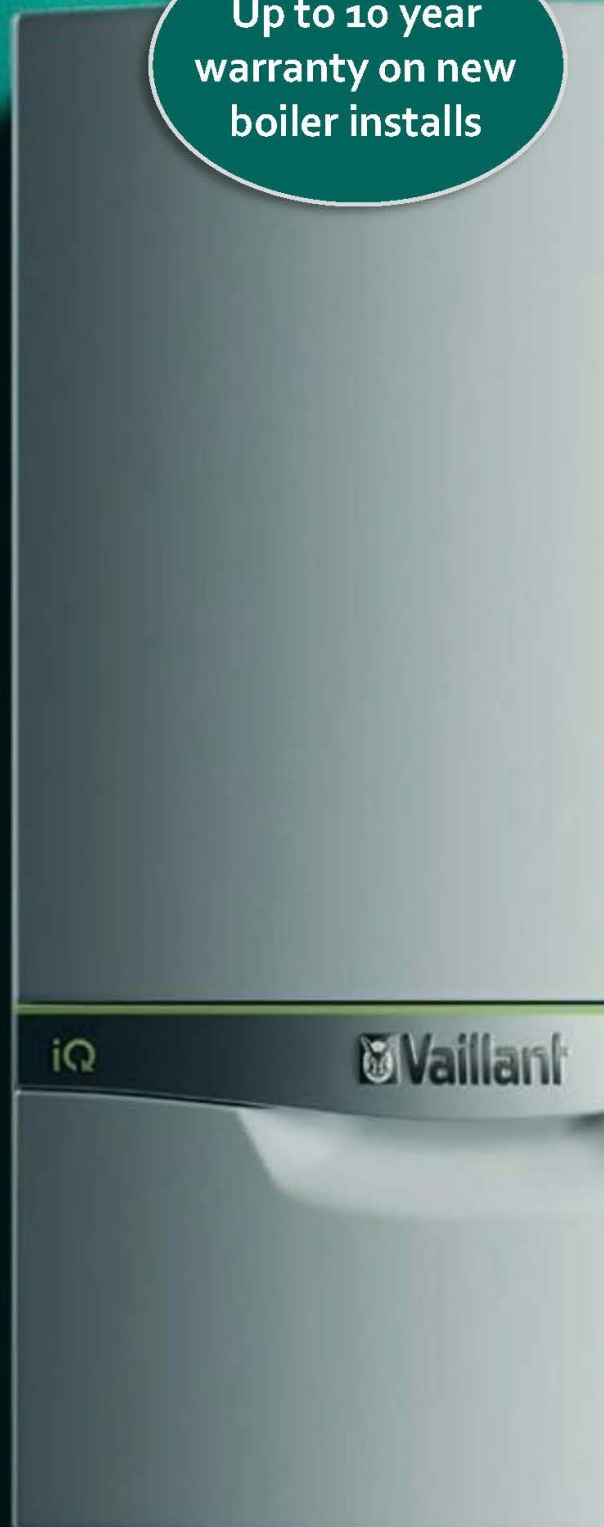
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The Port of Southampton donates to local scout groups to promote water safety

The Port of Southampton recently donated a total of £5,000 to two local scouts' groups to promote water safety in central Southampton and in Marchwood.

The donation has been made from the Port's Weighted Heaving Line Fund, which is generated from charges issued to vessels that arrive in the port using unsafe berthing practices, including throwing mooring messenger lines weighted with heavy objects. These funds are reinvested into the local community, supporting organisations to promote safe behaviour on the water.

In recent weeks, ABP has supported the Hamble Lifeboat Service, and this latest round of funding has been awarded to two local Scout groups who regularly provide on-the-water activities.

The groups benefiting from the donations are 5th Marchwood Scout Group, who will use the funding to purchase lifejackets and kayaks and 25th Southampton (Northam) Sea Scout Group, who plan to provide additional safety equipment, including kayak spray decks to help protect young people during activities such as kayak rolling.



The Port of Southampton donates to Marchwood Music Festival and Fun Day

The Port of Southampton has continued its support for local community initiatives this month, with a £500 donation to the Marchwood Music Festival and Fun Day. The event will take place at Lloyds Recreation Ground, Marchwood, on Saturday 18 July, from 12pm to 10pm.

Richard Parkinson, Port Director for the Solent Gateway, recently met with the new Chairman of Marchwood Parish Council, Councillor Nigel Buckett, to present the cheque.



Forget-Me-Not Café

Every fourth Friday of the Month at 2 - 4pm

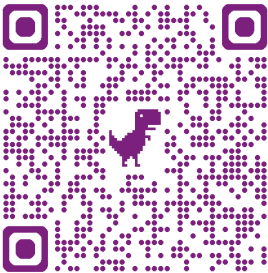
A friendly, monthly cafe for people living with memory loss, their families, friends and members of the local community to come together.

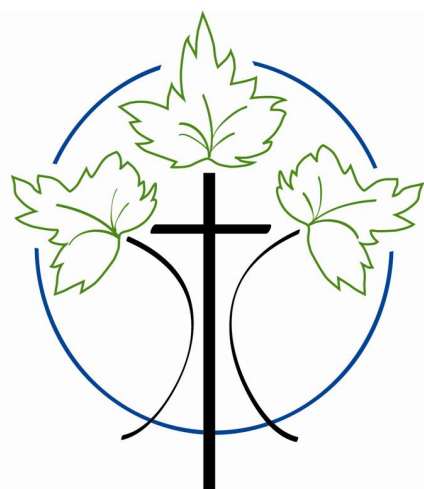
Join us at Oaklands Rest Home to connect in a supportive space over tea, homemade cake and conversation.

📍 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:





The Gospel Church
Marchwood

A picture paints a thousand words. The phrase is generally attributed to an American newspaper editor called Arthur Brisbane, who in 1911 advocated the use of illustrations in his publications. Photojournalism was still in its infancy at the time, and news articles were more often illustrated with engravings than photographs. Television had yet to be invented of course, and although regular transmissions began in 1936, there were only about a hundred people living in London equipped to receive them. The picture was grainy and in black and white, and we can only imagine how Arthur Brisbane would have delighted in the full colour, twenty-four-hour news coverage available today.

One thing that seems never to change, is the distressing nature of much of the news. There have certainly never been

more wars occurring at the same time in my lifetime, and natural disasters are undeniably on the increase too.

To many people this raises a question: If God is a God of love, then why does he allow this? The question is a fair one. In the book of Genesis, we're told that the world he created was originally perfect, so it must certainly grieve him to see what it has become. In fact, his concern for mankind is so great that he sent his own son, Jesus, to live among us – sharing in our suffering and dying, but then rising from the dead to prove that the power of evil had been defeated. Jesus warned his disciples, however, that wars and disasters would continue till the day of his return, at which point, all sorrow and wickedness would be destroyed forever.

Tuesday 10.30 – 12.30: Connect Café. (Hot drinks & Homemade cakes for all.)

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

Friday 3.15 – 4.45: Tea & Toast. (After-school refreshments and fun for parents & children.)

Why not join us at the Gospel Church to discover more about God's love for us, and his plan of Salvation? Our Sunday Morning Service begins at 10.30, and is held either at the Infant school in Twiggs Lane (during term time), or at our Church building in Long Lane (school holidays). You may also be interested in the following, details of which can be found on our website: www.gospelchurchmarchwood.org.uk.



Useful Contact Numbers

<u>Emergencies</u>	
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
<u>Local Authorities</u>	
Hampshire County Council	03005 551375
New Forest District Council	02380 285000
Marchwood Parish Council	02380 860273
National Park Authority	01590 646600
<u>Helplines</u>	
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
<u>Health and Medical Services</u>	
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
<u>Schools</u>	
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 FESTIVAL & FUN DAY!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
02380 860273
office@marchwoodparish.gov.uk

SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026 - 4PM - 10PM
LLOYD RECREATION GROUND
ADULTS - £12 / 16'S & UNDER GO FREE
ALL ALCOHOLIC DRINKS - £5

DRINK TOKENS ON SALE NOW!

ALSO APPEARING LIVE ON STAGE:

Phil & Wayne

**THUNDERBOLTS
&
LIGHTNING**

**BEER
TENT!**

**KIDS
GO
FREE!**



AND FOR THE KIDS - 12PM - 4PM
KRAZY KEV'S MAGIC SHOW
DEBBIE D'S PARTY FUN & DISCO

TAKE THAT - RULE THE WORLD

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

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BRITISH PORTS**

**T&C's - ENTRY WITH WRISTBAND ONLY - UNDER 16'S WHO GO FREE OF CHARGE MUST ALSO WEAR A WRISTBAND
STRICTLY NO GLASS IS PERMITTED ON SITE / STRICTLY NO ALCOHOL IS TO BE BROUGHT ONTO SITE
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ENTRY**