

Marston Sicca

Parish Newsletter

October 2020





THE WARDROBE SHOP buys and sells pre-loved high end women's clothing and accessories. We are particularly proud to boast top brands including **Prada, Jimmy Choo and Mulberry to Ted Baker, Whistles** and many more.

The dress agency in Welford on Avon appeals to the eco fashion shopper who desires a luxury designer item at a fraction of the original cost.

Why not pop in and have a browse?

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a safe, friendly welcome awaits you, following covid19 guidelines.

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(as seen on front cover – image courtesy of Simon Hanagarth Photography)

Situated on the edge of Mickleton, between Chipping Campden in the Cotswolds, and Stratford Upon Avon in Warwickshire, Pages Farm Shop has been established since 1969.

feel very fortunate to have excellent producers, growers and farmers in this area that we work alongside. This in turn keeps food miles low and supports the local economy.

First opened by Jeremy Page and his wife Jean, who sold their own homegrown fruit and vegetables alongside 'pick your own' fruit. They continued to run the shop over the next 40 years, increasing the range of produce by working closely with other local producers. In 2009, their son Joe and his wife Heather took over the farm shop, expanding and extending the business.

We are passionate about supplying the best local produce to our customers and

OPENING HOURS:

Mon: 8am – 5:30pm
Tues: CLOSED
Wed: 8am – 5:30pm
Thu: 8am – 5:30pm
Fri: 8am – 5:30pm
Sat: 8am – 5:30pm
Sun: 9am – 1:00pm



Editor's Notes

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this month's Newsletter.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all who have responded to my plea for comments on the possible destruction of the woodlands at Meon Vale.

Later in the newsletter there is one of many poems written as part of The Meon Vale Snapshot Stories. We are lucky to have a sneak peek at one written by Manuela Perteghella. Dionne Sambrook, a resident of Meon Vale, also shares with us her thoughts on exactly what the woodland means to her. It echoes all of the emails I have received.

Please keep sending your comments to marstoneditor@yahoo.com.

This is quite possibly my favourite time of year. Not only because I love the colours of the trees, weirdly the colder weather, foraging for berries and getting excited at the first crumble of the season.

It is the start of what I call the big 'Three': Halloween, Guy Fawkes and then Christmas. Who needs to grow up? Always the excitement of Halloween, putting together costumes, (always last minute of course), scooping out the pumpkins, and just the joy of seeing them lit up in the dark (though unsure what the guidelines will be this year). Then Bonfire Night. I know I speak for many when I say how disappointed we are that The Masons will not be putting on their usual spectacular fireworks display. However, ... I have it on good authority that the Christmas tree is on order!

Take care and be safe



Parish Council News

Due to continuing advice from NALC (National Association of Local Councils), the Parish Council continue to hold meetings via Zoom.

Both our District and County Councillors were present having already provided reports on key issues. Cllr. Perteghella discussed the woodland area within Meon Vale, confirming a resident's association within MV will appoint a steering committee to focus on protecting this valuable asset. Marston Sicca Parish Council have already submitted a strong objection to the potential development of this area but in addition, are working with

the residents and the district councillor to raise the profile of the woodland area.

The issues relating to Unitary Authority was briefly mentioned; the Government is publishing a White Paper next month which would see the biggest re-organisation of local government in almost 50 years. Please see www.stratford.gov.uk/news/news.cfm/current/1/item/137297 for more information.

Councillors debated the ongoing discussions with Lagan Homes and our respective solicitors with regards to the transfer of the open space. We were pleased to receive confirmation from

SDC that Lagan had finally accepted our decision relating to the original plans for the site and that the transfer would now be organised through the normal legal channels. We had again found some delays relating to the legal under- taking but this too was likely to be resolved in the short term. With the transfer in mind, councillors were able to return their attention to the open space and its intended use. Once the transfer formalities are concluded, the open space steering committee can be re- formed along with professional guidance to evaluate best options for the site.

With land being transferred to the Parish Council (including play area etc., within Barley Fields), councillors discussed a maintenance programme to ensure equipment and open space is regularly checked and/or enhanced. In addition, with specific reference to existing play areas, the council felt items of play within Barley Fields were inadequate and not reflective of wider age groups. Cllr. Hillier and Cllr. Clarke are reviewing space and options of further play schemes with the possibility of making some modifications to the area in order to introduce new, more versatile equipment.

With specific reference to Meon Vale, an update was given on the allotments; The lease has been approved but await the plans from St Modwen's solicitors, this has been chased with St Modwen directly. With regards to the Pavilion and the intention of running this as a community hub, the temporary license agreement between St Modwen and Marston Sicca Parish Council has now been received and the council will be reviewing terms of use and an operational framework. This is an enterprise being jointly managed with Quinton Parish Council and will involve a range of services to help support the wider Meon Vale community.

OCT 2020 PLANNING REPORT

1. 20/02332/AMD

Plot 22 The Willows

- *Decision – No Objection*

2. 19/03262/AMD, LMA 400, Additional substation.

- *Decision – No Objection*

3. 20/01880/LDP

15 Perry Orchard

- *Decision – No Objection*

4. 20/02082/FUL

The Red House, Wyre Lane.

- *Decision – No Objection*

5. 20/01958/TPO

19 Perry Orchard

- *Decision – No Objection*

Cllr. Davis confirmed discussions were underway with residents of Long Marston to help continue the Neighbourhood Plan. The plan as noted previously, requires specific functions to be undertaken which is hard to achieve with limited manpower. We hope further interest can be secured from our residents.

Cllr Hillier confirmed some progress has been made with regards to finding a contractor to organise badly needed repairs to Wyre Lane (from the junction leading up to the Greenway). Further details will be given in due course.

Councillors would like to invite residents to join us in our **Autumn Village Clean**. We are able to secure pickers for both adults and children to help keep the village tidy.

Please join us 10am on October 10th at the village hall.

Debbie Woodliffe Parish Clerk



THE MASONS ARMS

WE WOULD LIKE TO START WITH A BIG THANK YOU

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HAVE SUPPORTED US SINCE WE REOPENED.
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE AMAZING SUPPORT WE RECEIVED THROUGH LOCKDOWN
WITH OUR DELIVERY & COLLECTION SERVICE.

ALL OF YOUR KIND WORDS & COMMENTS REGARDING THE
INTERIOR MAKEOVER HAVE BEEN FANTASTIC.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE RESPONSE ON THE SAFE MEASURES WE AND THE TEAM
HAVE PUT IN PLACE TO KEEP YOU ALL SAFE HAVE BEEN AMAZING.

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

FIREWORKS NIGHT WILL NOT GO AHEAD THIS YEAR
OPEN AS USUAL FOR DRINKS CHRISTMAS DAY BUT NO CHRISTMAS DINNERS

THE GOOD NEWS...

DELIVERY & COLLECTION WILL START AGAIN IN OCTOBER
OUR LIGHT LUNCH MENU IS BACK MON-FRI 12PM-3PM
NEW AUTUMN/WINTER MENU OUT NOW

THE BIG CHRISTMAS TREE HAS BEEN ORDERED:
NOTHING WILL STOP US LIGHTING UP THE VILLAGE FOR CHRISTMAS!!

WE HAVE MORE MEASURES IN PLACE TO KEEP YOU SAFE WHEN VISITING US. IF YOU NEED
TO KNOW MORE, GIVE US A CALL AND WE CAN TALK YOU THROUGH THEM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT
ADAM, DEREK & THE TEAM



Sue welcomes you to

Mickleton Antique Centre

Open 7 days 10-5

Under new ownership! (formally The Shed)
 25 dealers topping up weekly!
 Seasonal plant centre
 ...a real Aladdin's cave...



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Long Marston W.I.

Our September meeting was at Liz Marcuse's for coffee in the garden.

We hope we will somehow achieve our November General Meeting as Carol, our President, wishes to retire and there are legal requirements for installing a replacement.

It was to be followed by a Film Show of clips from nostalgic musical film scenes from the 30s to the 50s but that will have to be put on hold for the time being with the recent Covid-19 regulations.

Thank you.

Liz Marcuse

The Village Hall

Due to the new guidelines the Committee have decided to close the hall for the foreseeable future.

The Committee will evaluate this decision as new rulings unfold.

Be safe everyone.



Scouts

1st Welford on Avon

Our plans for getting back together at Beavers, Cubs and Scouts safely

Despite the recent change to social gathering restrictions in England (the 9th September 2020 announcement that gatherings are to be restricted to a maximum of six people), Scouts, Cubs and Beavers are permitted to meet in groups of more than six provided we follow the Scout Association's restart guidance. This is because Scouting is a youth sector activity and therefore classified as an essential service.

At the 1st Welford On Avon Scout Group, we're planning for how we'll be able to return to face-to-face Scouting activities. We would like to restart after the October half term as this will have allowed children time to settle back in at school.

However, before we can start meetings again, we need your help. Unfortunately, due to ill-health and other commitments our Scout leadership has shrunk – this means that we are in urgent need of adults to support our existing leadership team in both Cubs and Scouts. It would be a shame if one or even both sections had to close due to a lack of leaders but this is the reality if we are unable to fill these roles!

If you are interested in helping out at Cubs or Scouts or if you just want to find out a bit more without any commitment, please contact me.

Maria Smith welfordscoutgroup@yahoo.com

Sympathy

It is with great sadness to share the passing of Bob Beasley. Bob was a volunteer for many years in The Poppin, manning stalls at the village fete, and organising the local skittle league. Our thoughts are with June and family.

We would also like to send our thoughts and warm wishes to Tim and Barbara Farrell on the bereavement of their daughter in law Linda.

Report from your District Councillor

Dear Residents

I hope you are all keeping well. As I write this, sadly cases of Covid-19 infections are on the increase nationally, and therefore the government has just announced new restrictions including the 'rule of 6' in relation to gatherings. It will be also mandatory for certain businesses to have a system to collect NHS Test and Trace data, and keep this for 21 days. These new restrictions will be in place for some time, as we enter autumn, and with it the colder months. Please do all take care.

As I wrote in my previous report, I have proposed a motion related to planning in the last Council meeting, which asks that technical guidance notes are drawn and published for Class Q, which is a form of permitted development which allows the change of use of certain buildings from agriculture to residential use. The Cabinet has asked for a report to be produced by officers for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, following which, to be reported back to the Cabinet.

The Annual (virtual) council Meeting, postponed from last May, happened on the 16th September. This is where membership of several committees is decided, with ward members nominated, appointed and if applicable voted in. The new Chairman of the Council is also elected. I will be sitting on the Audit and Standards committee, as well as the Climate Change Panel, and the Electoral boundary review working group.

Business Rates Grant Relief Scheme

The Council has paid the grant to nearly 3000 businesses in the District, under the Small Business Grant and the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant Funds. The Business Rates Grant scheme ended on 28 August 2020.

Proposed Planning changes

One of the most important issues which will

affect our District in the years to come is the government's new planning proposals. The government is right now consulting on two proposals to completely reform the planning system. One is on current planning rules, and the other is on the future overhaul of the whole planning system. Under the proposed future reforms, land will be put into one of three categories or zones – for growth, for renewal or for protection. Planning permission would be automatically granted for developments in the 'growth' areas (subject to certain criteria).

A 'presumption in favour of development' will affect those areas under the 'Renewal' label, areas which therefore are suitable for some development. Development would be discouraged in the 'Protection' zones, such as national parks and areas of outstanding beauty. If these reforms get voted through, the local planning authorities would be asked to produce a new local development plan which must be in place within 30 months.

Policy would be set at national – rather than local – level. There are other issues in the proposals, including replacing the Community Infrastructure Levy and S106 payments with a national levy, and a move towards a digital planning system. As you would imagine these plans have already caused some concern to various organisations.

As your ward member, I feel very strongly that we must ensure that any future change to the planning system puts local participation at its heart, and that communities continue to have the right to shape the future of their local areas.

The planning consultations are on the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government website. The consultation on changes to the current planning system closes on 1st October, whilst the consultation on future reforms 'Planning for the future' closes on 29th October.

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government

Site allocation Plan (SAP)

The Preferred Option of the SAP 2020 has been published and it will be presented to the Cabinet on the 5th October. You can read it online: www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/SAP-Preferred-Options-Cabinet-Version.cfm?frmAlias=/sappo/

Then, depending on Cabinet's decision, it will be presented to Full Council on 19th October.

After the Council's vote, it should be published for public consultation later in the autumn. Unfortunately, the site containing the Meon Vale woodland walk has been proposed for inclusion – not as a site held in reserve – but as allocated for housing development, under the label of 'Specific Site Proposal'. I have asked to speak at the Cabinet meeting, and I will speak at full Council, objecting to its inclusion. Once the SAP is due for public consultation, I will be able to submit my formal representation as ward member, and all residents and other stakeholders will be able to formally comment on the sites identified. I will work together with the residents and your Parish Council in my response.

Possible Future of the District Council

Following the government calls for council reorganisation in their forthcoming White Paper on the future of local government structure, and its preference for unitary authorities, Warwickshire County Council commissioned a report with options and on 27th August the report was presented to the WCC Cabinet. This report makes the case for a single unitary authority. This report is now published on the County Council website. This will be fully debated at the County Council meeting at the end of September.

The 5 District councils, including Stratford

District Council, have commissioned their own report to look at all the options, including two unitary councils (North Warwickshire and a separate South Warwickshire unitary). I will update you in the next issue about the findings of the Districts' report.

What your District Council provides:

Among the many services our local District Council provides, and its responsibilities, there are the following:

Housing services including homelessness function, Planning, including planning policy, Environmental Health, including food inspections and pest control, Housing Benefits and Council Tax, Electoral Services, Land Charges, Licensing, including Taxis.

By jointly working with other agencies, the Council also provides Business Rates administration, Parking Services, supports the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Voluntary Action Stratford on Avon (Vasa), and Tourism, with Shakespeare's England.

Provided by Third Parties: Leisure Centres, Refuse and Recycling services, Grounds Maintenance, including grass cutting on council land, Street Cleaning services, public toilets.

Finally...

A big thank you again for adhering to current social distancing measures when you are out and about.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any query, issue or concern you might have.

Warmest best wishes

Cllr Manuela Perteghella

07870 488071

Manuela.perteghella@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CllrManuelaPerteghellaWelford

Seasonal Recipes

Pumpkin And Ginger Soup

Ingredients

- 1kg scooped out pumpkin from your little darlings' beautifully-carved masterpiece(!)
- 2 shallots
- 75g ginger
- Some fresh herbs, like chives, mint
- Extra virgin olive oil
- 1 litre vegetable stock
- 125ml coconut milk, plus extra to serve
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons chilli powder
- 1 lime

Method

- 1 Roughly chop pumpkin, peel and chop shallots, peel and finely grate the ginger, and finely chop the herbs.
- 2 Put the pumpkin, shallots, ginger and some oil in a large pot and sauté until soft.
- 3 Add the stock, coconut milk and chilli powder. Season, then bring to the boil and simmer for 40 minutes.
- 4 Blitz in a food processor then serve with fresh herbs, juice of a lime and a splash of coconut milk. Yum.



Fun fact (from National Trust)

Most of us know that pumpkins are of the same family as the squash, but so are cucumbers and melons.

The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed in at a massive 2,625lbs (1,190.68kg)!!

Squash are technically a fruit, but definitely taste better as a soup than served with ice cream or custard!

Antarctica is the only continent where pumpkins can't grow.

Kids Fave: Butternut and Tomato Pasta

Ingredients

- 1 butternut squash
- Olive oil
- Sundried tomato paste (good few spoonfuls), or sundried tomatoes
- Herbs of your choice – thyme is fab, or good old dried mixed herbs
- Parmesan or other cheese alternative
- Pasta of choice

Method

- 1 Preheat oven to 180°. Cut butternut squash into half, place on baking tray, season, drizzle with olive oil and roast

for roughly half an hour. Depends on size.

- 2 About ten minutes before butternut squash is cooked place pan of water to boil. Pop in pasta of choice.
- 3 Take squash out of oven and scoop out of skin. Place squash and paste, or sundried tomatoes into a food processor and whizz into a nice sauce.
- 4 Drain pasta and mix together (pasta to sauce), season to taste.
- 5 Scatter over parmesan or even just grated cheese.

ONE FOR THE GROWN UPS

The hedges are dripping with sloes this year. Like dripping..... however please stick to footpaths, and be careful if picking along the side of the road (from experience)!

For the best flavour you should wait until berries are ripe. They should be a dark rich purple and should squash easily between your fingertips.

Tradition was that you should pick after the first frost. I like tradition, but unfortunately the weather is changing, and they look very ripe at the moment. Nowadays we can trick the berries and pop them in the freezer to mimic the first frost.

The theory is the frost splits the skin so the juices flow into the gin without the effort of pricking all the berries.

Sloe Gin

Ingredients

- 1 litre bottle of gin
- 450g sloes
- 225g caster sugar
- 1 large sterilised jar or 2 empty litre bottles.

Method

- 1 Wash sloes and seal in an airtight bag. Freeze overnight or until you're ready to make the gin.
- 2 Put frozen sloes into sterilised jar or bottles.
- 3 Add gin then the sugar directly onto frozen sloes. Their skins will split which means you avoid pricking.
- 4 Once the sloes have thawed, seal the jar tightly and shake.
- 5 Store jar in a cool, dark place and shake every other day for a week. After the first week you only need to shake it once a week for 2 months.

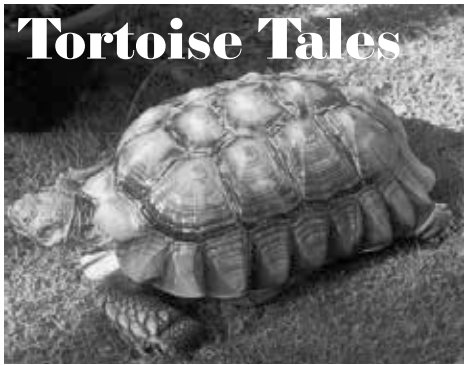
- 6 The liquid should now be dark red and ready for drinking, though it improves over time.

Serve neat with ice, or drizzle over ice cream.

To make a Sloe Royale (oooh nice wee Christmas cocktail), add to champagne (sacrilege personally), or a sparkling wine.



Tortoise Tales



This is George – Not your usual tortoise!

He's a Sulcata (African Spur Thigh).

He's the third largest tortoise species, after the Galapagos and the Aldabra.

He is 6 years old, just a baby by Sulcata standards.

The oldest Sulcata on record is 189 years old so he's more than a lifetime commitment. We anticipate that the next 6/7 generations will be looking after him.

He has his own insulated summerhouse with a temperature of 23° day and night, winter and summer.

His basking lamp reached 32° for his daytime sunbathing.

He likes to dig a burrow at night so at least 30cm of soil on the floor.

He's a giant, already too heavy to lift, so his enclosure has to be secure with a large grazing area and a shallow pool. (He enjoys bathing on hot days).

We learned very quickly (after he pulled the door off the summerhouse) that he acts like a tank. Goes through obstacles instead of round them.

Aside from grass, his favourite treats are dandelions, plantain, mallow and romaine lettuce. Every morning I can be seen foraging for his food along the Greenway.

Eats like a horse, poos like a horse, but would I swap him??

NO definitely not.

Doreen Allen.

Nosh and Natter Group

for over 55's

Luncheons and Meon Tea and Chatter

Unfortunately, we are still unable to start these at the moment, but we are continually reassessing the situation regarding Covid19. Keeping in mind the safety of our members, helpers catering team and organisations.

Trips 4U

Turkey Tinsel Holiday

Nov. 30th - Dec 4th

At the time of preparing copy we have still not heard from Potters Resort as to the plans for this break.

They are currently shut to prepare for the winter holidays. So hopefully we will soon be advised.

Planters Garden Centre, Tamworth

Dec 14th 2020

£10 per person. Good venue for festive shopping + Excellent Restaurant

Coach company Johnston's

Depart Meon Vale 10.30am - arrive

11.30am (Please arrive early to ensure correct Covid19 boarding procedures)

Leave Planters 2pm and arrive back at Meon 3pm

Contact Barbara Craig

01789 720630/07771 708151

for more details or bookings.

NB: Please be assured that both Coach company and Planters have good Covid19 practice - I have assessed them myself.



Megan Cond 12th October

If you would like your child's birthday to appear in the newsletter, please email me: marstoneditor@yahoo.com

Leopard Tortoises

A few facts about Leopard Tortoises

Their origin: Africa.

They are the fourth largest tortoises in the world and can weigh up to 54kg.

What they eat: Grass, Kale, spring greens, rose and hibiscus leaves, romaine lettuce and many dandelions which is their favourite. They also need calcium, which they have in powder form or a cuttlefish.

- *They do not hibernate.*
- *They can live up to 75 years.*
- *They are the only tortoises that can swim and they can stay underwater for 10 minutes.*
- *When they are scared or stressed, they hiss.*
- *Female lays eggs, incubation 9 to 12 months, varying according to temperature and location.*
- *They can lay between 5 to 30 eggs depending on their size. they bury their eggs in the sand.*
- *They must be inside when the temperature is below 15 degrees Celsius*
- *They must have a heat lamp which they can bask under, when they feel the need.*

Meet Sharka and Georgina. Sharka was born in 2009 and was the size of a 50 pence piece. Georgina joined our family in 2016. Unfortunately, she has a personality disorder! This I think was due to her living in a flat in Coventry for the first 5 years of her life. I put them outside to enjoy the sunshine, Sharka explores the whole garden.

Climbing rocks, walking into the kitchen (if I leave the door open). Sharka has been known to escape the garden and on two occasions was down the road, on his way



to the pub. Some poor unfortunate driver nearly ran him over. While Georgina immediately goes and hides under a bush! That is when the trouble starts as they look like rocks. My latest purchase is a pair of key finders - I tie them on, using string and an elastic band, round their middle and then when I need to put them in the shed, I press the button and it bleeps. Hey presto I find them. That was after many attempts of attaching them securely, as within 15 minutes, Sharka had managed to lose his!

People believe they are very slow movers, but you would be surprised how quickly they (Sharka) can disappear! They are both very partial to strawberries but only as a treat. They also enjoy cucumber, apples, round courgettes and tomatoes. These are not on the list of foods. They enjoy a warm bath, which for some reason they immediately poo in - disgusting! The main downside in owning Leopards is how long they live - they need to be put in my will!

Margaret Clarke

St James the Great

Ramblings from the Rector!

Some years ago we used to sing a children's action chorus that went like this: *'I'm going to zoom, zoom, zoom, around the room, room, room, and praise the Lord. I'm going to tell of all he's done, I'm going to make him number one, I'm going to zoom around the room and praise the Lord'*

You can perhaps imagine the actions that went with that song, but who would have thought that as a church we would be 'zooming' as we moved our church services online*. In all honesty, it's not been easy at times to 'praise the Lord' but I trust that through the present pandemic, God has walked with you, encouraging and supporting you as you put your hand in his.

In August we were finally allowed back in to our beautiful church buildings for worship. Of course services are now very different - for the time being we have to sit at a physical distance from each other, we can't greet each other with a handshake or a hug, some of our church family can't be with us due to the ongoing health concerns around COVID-19 and we are unable to sing - although we can listen to music. Despite all that, for many it's a great relief to be back - to see each other face to face, rather than on a computer screen - even though we now have to wear a face covering!

For a moment, I want to think about 'face coverings' - the latest fashion accessory! There are so many different types: pleated, fitted, stretchy, floral, plain, homemade, bought, disposable.... I wonder what your favourite type is?

What they all have in common is that they cover the face, or certainly the lower part of the face - which can be difficult as we try to communicate with or recognise



people we've not seen for a while. Thankfully we can say a lot with our eyes, which help our muffled voices to be heard. You may even find a bit of 'sign language' creeping into our services as we attempt to share our welcome with each other.

Sadly we sometimes try and hide behind face coverings - be they actual physical coverings, or virtual coverings of our own making.

Interestingly the Bible has quite a bit to say about faces. In Numbers 6.26 we have that famous verse now made into a beautiful blessing: *'May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and give you his peace'*. In 1 Samuel 16.7 we read *'man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart'*. Life is not about what people see on the outside - it's about what God, our loving heavenly Father, sees on the inside and he longs to give us his peace.

In Exodus 34.33-35 we read about how Moses wore a 'veil' over his face when he met with God. When he returned to the people, he removed his veil and guess what - his face was radiant! Not surprisingly, meeting with God had made a massive difference to his face, to his outward appearance.

The New Testament makes frequent reference to seeking God's 'face' - or in other words 'his presence'. The New Testament also talks of *'God revealing his face to us in human form, displayed in the face of Jesus Christ'*. You can read about that in 2 Corinthians 4.6.

There are many other references to faces in the Bible which all remind us that God is interested in us as real people: God has a name, and he calls us by our name; God is a person, and he is concerned about us as a person; God has a face, and he seeks our face (our true face); God has a heart, and he seeks our heart!

Face coverings have become the norm – but may I suggest we don't just have to wear them when we're put and about – we can use them as a prayer prompt:

- as you put it on, remember that God is concerned about you as an individual and can see through your face covering whether it's a literal one or a virtual barrier of our own making.
- Perhaps take the opportunity each day to sit and look at your face covering and talk to God about your feelings – your concerns for your world, your family and yourself; give thanks to God for keeping you safe so far; give thanks for all the good in the world, for the beauty of creation, for your friends and family.

- and finally, ponder the good that God sees in you as you remove your face covering – you may be presently surprised!

Finally – a word about Church Services

*services online via zoom will continue each Sunday at 10am until we are ALL able to worship in church again.

Contact the clergy for login details.

***Services in our Church buildings will be at 11.30am and will rotate around the Benefice. This will usually be a Communion Service. As space is limited, please book the preceding week by email to karibu@talk21.com or telephone 01789 751546 (leave a message on the answer machine).*

Week 1: Welford

Week 2: Long Marston

Week 3: Quinton

Week 4: Weston

With best wishes

Ros and the Clergy Team

Ordination of Revd Jim Edie as Priest in the Church of England

On Sunday 20th September, Jim was 'ordained' as a Priest in the Church of England in a beautiful (but rather different than normal) service at Gloucester Cathedral by Bishop Rachel. His ordination had been delayed from June because of the current pandemic.

You might well be saying – I already thought he was ordained – he wears a dog collar and looks like a Priest!

Indeed, he does, but in the Church of England, a Priest has to first be ordained as a 'Deacon' before being ordained as a Priest. The only visible difference is perhaps in the way he wears his 'stole'. The observant amongst you will have seen that he used to wear it diagonally across his



body – as a symbolic nod to the wearing of a towel by Jesus as he washed his disciples' feet – and is a sign of the servant nature of the deacon role. In addition, Jim can now preside at a Service of Holy Communion, marry and 'bless' people.

Many books have been written about what

the life and work of being a Priest is all about. Priests come in very many different 'varieties' with different priorities and in different contexts. One Bishop summarised the role as being concerned with the glory of God, the pain of the world and the renewal (repentance) of the Church.

Bishop John Pritchard described the role of the Priest as: presiding genius, spiritual explorer, artful story teller, multilingual interpreter, inquisitive learner, pain bearer,

wounded companion, weather-beaten witness, iconic presence, friendly irritant, creative leader, attractive witness, faith coach, mature risk taker, flower arranger and life-fulfiller. As ministry has changed rapidly over 2020, perhaps we can add to that list - technical guru, social media influencer, infection control officer, Government guidance interpreter....

When you next meet Jim, ask him which of these roles he particularly relates to!

LONG MARSTON LADIES

Twenty-two households in Long Marston took part in the yard sale hosted by Long Marston Ladies. The village buzzed as buyers and stallholders alike enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere.

Neighbours, friends and people from far and wide were able to chat and share some laughter, while observing social distance. As Long Marston Ladies are

non-profit making, the remaining money from the advertising was given to Barbara and Tim Farrell to donate to a charity of their choice in memory of their son Spencer and daughter-in-law Linda.

Many requests for a repeat performance have resulted in this being an annual event. Spring Clearout starting next year. Watch this space.



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Dmitri Hancock

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The Poppin Chat

We have managed to stay open throughout the Covid-19 crisis, albeit originally, we had to cut our hours drastically because of staff risk profiles. We are delighted to inform you that we are extending our opening hours from Monday 5th October. See below for our new opening hours. If any of our volunteers feel able to return, or if there is anyone that would like to offer a few of hours a month, we'd love to hear from you. It's also a wonderful way to meet new people.

The precautions we have taken with new screens, limiting numbers inside the shop, regular sanitising etc has helped keep volunteers and customers safe. We will continue to monitor and adjust as necessary. We would like to thank everyone for their patience - if anyone has further ideas for improvement, we are listening.

The Poppin was a lifeline for many villagers through the first few months of lockdown. As things slowly get more normal, people are going back to shopping at the big supermarkets. This is hurting us while we are still forced to open limited hours - I would like to ask everyone to pop in and use us a little each week - it will ensure that our community shop survives.

We work extremely hard to keep prices competitive (in some cases like Cotswold Gin, being the cheapest in the area), and keep a wide range of products stocked. We try to source many of our products such as bread, cakes, milk, bacon, eggs, honey, beer etc locally. Le Petit Croissant is an

example. During lockdown we have been placing daily orders, which has proved very popular. They have proved to be extremely reliable during this difficult time, whilst still keeping their pricing reasonable. They supply fresh baked rolls, ciabatta baps and baguettes. They also supply artisan bread with flavours like sundried tomato and olive, stilton, onion and sourdough. Their croissants are wonderful, especially their chocolate twists, apricot croissants and pecan plaits. Or if you have a more savoury tooth, Cornish pasties. All can be ordered from The Poppin. If you cannot make it to the shop, just call on 01789 721011 to place your order. If you have not tried them, you are definitely missing out! Why not treat yourself and give them a try!

If you would like to see us stock your favourite products, please come and let us know and we will see what we can do - The Poppin is your Community shop after all.

Many thanks to everyone that has helped keep the shop open in any way, it is much appreciated, and absolutely critical. If you want to join us, I assure you it is good fun and sociable - we will welcome you with open elbows!

Simon Kiener

NEW OPENING HOURS

THE POPPIN	THE POST OFFICE
MON – FRI 8am – 2pm	MON – THU 9am – 2pm
WEEKEND 8am – 1pm	FRI 9am – 12pm WIE CLOSED



It's that time of year when we gather for our community clean up.

Please meet outside the village hall on October 10th at 10am (in your bubbles). All bags and pickers will be provided, however please bring your own gloves. Thank you.

Heart of England Farms

Festive flavour to savour

Locally reared, free range Christmas
Bronze and White turkeys, Cockerels,
Geese and Ducks.

Heart of England Farms have been rearing christmas poultry for over 30 years. Specialising in free range bronze turkeys, cockerels, white turkeys and geese we can offer something to keep every tastebud happy! With sizes ranging from smaller 3kg cockerels to beautiful 11kg+ turkeys, whatever the size of your gathering we have the ideal solution.

After spending so long apart during 2020 Christmas is a time to be together. An ideal opportunity to put those new found cooking skills to the test perhaps!

Our bronze turkeys have free range in open fields, the perimeter fence is to keep the wily fox out rather than the birds in! The geese wander at will being allowed acres of space for grazing, and our cockerels and ducks are allowed the time to reach maturity resulting in the tastiest birds ever!

For prices and ordering please visit our website, however for any individual questions do not hesitate to give us a call. Collection days are the 23rd and 24th December or delivery can be arranged as required.

www.heartofenglandfarms.com

Be together this Christmas

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Meon Vale News

Meon Vale Resident's Meeting

I'm so pleased to share with you the outcome of resident's meeting on Wednesday 16th. The meeting was held via Zoom (on-line video conferencing) and had a fantastic turnout. Thanks to everyone for attending and particularly Dominic Skinner for Chairing and Natasha for taking minutes.

We talked about the various issues and opportunities we have as residents in Meon Vale – and being such a new village and a young community with a wide demographic (when compared to other villages in south Warwickshire), it is apparent that we have a wealth of assets, facilities, ideas, skills and experience to draw upon.

So the plan is to set up a steering group to determine exactly how a formal group can be established. The steering group will meet and prepare the groundwork so that the next resident's meeting will be to agree a constitution, elect officers, consider funding, routes of communication, open up membership and establish subgroups who will have specific tasks or areas of interest. If you want to get involved or just to know more, please email meonvaleresidents@gmail.com. Please feel free to tell us your thoughts and share your ideas – to be effective, the resident's group needs to be open and accessible to everyone so that it is representative of as many residents as possible.

In the meantime, we have the very urgent matter of our much-loved woodland (part of the Greenway Walk) which is currently facing the threat of future development. Contact Alisha Johnson via meonvaleresidents@gmail.com to see how you can get involved. Please also check out the Facebook group "Friends of Meon Vale Woodland Walk" where you can share your thoughts, observations, videos and photos

of the woodland. Lots of people from the surrounding villages use the woodlands, so this group is open to anyone and everyone who appreciates this special place.

All residents should have recently received the September Meon Vale Newsletter from St Modwen. This has several interesting articles, including a link to a survey so you can let them know your views. There is also information about the Meon Vale Management Company which manages many of the assets and communal areas of our village. Most residents are already members of the Meon Vale Management Company and St Modwen wish to establish a Resident's Working Group Forum. We need to work out how our new resident's group will link into this.

I think the Spring Lockdown made many of us acutely aware of how important our neighbours and immediate surroundings are: I certainly discovered more about my community and beautiful surroundings. And it certainly made clear to me that we can't take these things for granted. In fact, several schemes and initiatives were set up during lockdown including the local volunteer support networks and the food bank. Other groups have been working hard on resident's behalf to open up the allotments and reopen the Sports Pavilion. I think it is great that these things are already happening although it is a shame that they are needed. I hope we can support these initiatives and ensure they are accessible to everyone.

Thoughts on Meon Vale Woodlands

I really do appreciate the beautiful surroundings of where I live. It's the main reason we moved to Meon Vale: trees, hills, great amenities and access to open space. Daily walks are part of my regime to maintain physical and mental health and most days I follow the greenway from my

house and then onto the woodland walk. Every time I go, I see others doing the same: families, dog walkers, joggers or others like me simply stretching their legs, enjoying the air, the birdsong, the smell of the pines and the changing light through the trees. The woodland is such a delightful place and people from surrounding villages also regularly use it too.

So, I am appalled at the prospect of the woods being felled to accommodate future housing development. If it is taken away, we will lose a valuable local community resource. I will have to travel by car to Mickleton (Bakers Hill) or The Heart of England Forest at Barton to enjoy a similar woodland experience. But then I won't happen upon my friends and neighbours, so there will be no stopping for a quick hello and a chat. In order to reduce my carbon footprint I try to avoid using a car, so inevitably, I will go out less often and to the detriment of my physical and mental health.

One aspect I find very difficult to understand is how a local authority would ever consider the destruction of, or even a reduction of an established woodland. On 15th July 2019, Stratford-on-Avon District Council declared a Climate Emergency with councillors pledging to take local action to contribute to national targets to reduce carbon.

The council declared their aim for the district to be carbon neutral by 2030 and stated that they would, amongst other things, engage residents on the severity of climate change, examine how policy proposals will consider climate change and look at the effectiveness of their current activities to combat climate change. So how can Stratford on Avon District Council support any future development upon woodland and still stand by this declaration? How can planning officers even be contemplating this as a reasonable option?

Trees act as carbon sinks by absorbing

atmospheric carbon. Trees prevent and reduce flooding and trees reduce pollution. The entire ecosystems of woodlands help to absorb carbon and it takes years for woodland ecosystems to develop. We need to be planting many more trees, not cutting them down. Only 13% of the UK's land area is covered by trees compared with an EU average of 37% (Woodland Trust). UK needs to plant 1.5 billion trees to tackle climate change (The Committee on Climate Change, 2019).

St Modwen is suggesting they fell more than 9 acres of established mature trees and woodland habitat because "there are no overriding physical, environmental or technical constraints to development". St Modwen seemingly does not agree that trees are an effective way to tackle the climate crisis. More worrying is that neither do Stratford-upon-Avon District Council.

St Modwen states "We turn spaces into places that allow generations of people, communities and business to thrive" and "we make long standing commitments" (<https://stmodwenhomes.co.uk/why-st-modwen/creating-better-futures/>). Meon Vale is a fabulous place and I commend them for the master planning of the development that has been delivered so far.

However, the proposal flies in the face of this. St Modwen has taken no account of the impact of the substantial loss of existing amenity to the existing users of the woodland – there has been no consultation with the community and there has been no transparency with residents about their plans. The intrinsic value of the woodland to our community is not being considered by St Modwen, although they continue to use the woodland as a selling point to entice prospective house buyers. Where is St Modwen's commitment to the existing community there?

I understand the need to build more houses.

So yes, build more houses, expand Meon Vale if necessary (it's a great place to live and already is expected to significantly grow with phase 4) - there is plenty of suitable land around our village for it to grow. But I can see only one possible reason why an established and well-loved accessible woodland is an appropriate place to build more houses. That is because St Modwen already owns the land and stand to make a profit. But at a huge cost to the rest of us.

Dionne Sambrook

Meon Vale Snapshot Stories

Since the end of July, the community in Meon Vale has been working with writer and spoken word performer, Naomi Paul in a project with Live & Local and funded by Warwickshire Creative Health Alliance. This is one one of a series projects across the county where community groups work with professional artists to create a new and collaborative piece of art. The Meon Vale community were invited to share their thoughts about Meon Vale, their experiences during the pandemic and also music, poetry, prose, images or other artworks they have created during the recent challenging times.

Naomi has taken people's responses and ideas and crafted a spoken word performance which reflects the community. The beautiful surroundings and, in particular, Meon Vale Woodland Walk featured heavily in people's responses and so Naomi has written a wonderful protest song called "The Promise of the Woods" about the current threat to the woods. The song will feature in the final performance piece, which will be shared as a short film showing the sounds, songs, images, words and poetry written by Naomi and the residents.

The film will be shared in mid-October via social media and is a celebration of this new and vibrant community and what matters most to the people who live and

work there. For more information about the project, please contact friendsofmeonvale@gmail.com.

We were very pleased to receive so many responses from residents and others who work as part of the community of Meon Vale. Many of these will be incorporated into the final work, including this poem written by Manuela Perteghella.

Placemaking

*A glimpse of white and black
And dark blue hues caught
by my wandering eyes,
among the green of the dense
foliage. And there,
perched on a branch,
two joyous magpies.*

*Boughs of ash trees flutter
in the azure of this summer sky,
butterflies and bumblebees
flip like acrobats
in the meadowland below.*

*A table-lamp shades
this tearful corner of myself,
while I listen to the laughter
and chatter of birds
soaring in their sunset flights.*

*The phone rings, calls to me.
Sudden raindrops pierce through
unexpected golden leaves.
After the storm, solidarity is
what bind us together.*

*I long to be under
the canopy of trees
so tall, like the owls
in their nocturnal woods.
And sing of rainbows.*

*An orange umbrella explores
the solitary bramble-fringed path.
The scent of the earth in my lungs
The warmth of the rain on my skin*

*I travel on memories of childhood long past,
once I am here.*

Manuela Perteghella, September 2020

Long Marston Garden Club

Hope you have enjoyed the last two weeks of lovely weather to be out in your garden. Gosh the grass seemed to have grown rapidly all summer so hopefully those patches on your lawns benefitted from some new seed. Here are a few suggestions for your garden in October.

Happy gardening

Wiggy Taylor 01789 720275



Quiz

1. From which language is the word 'ketchup' derived?
2. Which is the country with the biggest population in Europe?
3. Who portrayed Edward Scissorhands?
4. What are made and repaired by a cobbler?
5. What is an endoscope used to examine?
6. Apart from womanizing and movies, what was Howard Hughes' other passion?
7. What colour are the four stars on the flag of New Zealand?
8. How many states make up the United States of America?
9. Which English football team plays its home matches at Old Trafford?
10. Mr. Carson is the name of the butler in which popular TV costume drama?
11. Comedy duo Ant and Dec are originally from which English city?
12. In the medical profession, what do the initials 'GP' stand for?
13. Which German football team won the Champions League in 2013?
14. Maris Piper and King Edward are varieties of what?
15. H₂O is the chemical formula for what?
16. Which English king married six times?
17. Whom did David Cameron succeed as the British prime minister?
18. Blandenurg, Bremen and Lower Saxony are states in which European country?
19. Complete the title of the play by Shakespeare – 'The Merchant of ...'?
20. By what name is the TV adventurer Edward Michael Gylls more commonly known?

Answers in next month Marston Sicca

Margaret Clarke

DID YOU KNOW?".....

1st October 1870 - The first official use of the postcard was made in Britain by The Post office together with the introduction of the halfpenny stamp.

1st October 1974 - American fast-food chain, McDonalds, opens its first British outlet in London.

2nd October 1925 - The first of London's now traditional red buses – with roofed-in upper decks, goes into service.

3rd October 1906 - S.O.S was established as an international distress signal.

3rd October 1916 - James Herriot (famous vet and author) was born.

3rd October 1990 - East and West Germany re-united and become one country.

4th October 1905 - Orville Wright became the first to fly an aircraft for over 33 miles.

6th October 1769 - British explorer Captain James Cook, on board his ship 'The Endeavour' "discovers" New Zealand.

8th October 1965 - The Post office Tower (now Telecom tower) in Maple Street, London, opens.

10th October 1886 - Dinner jacket first worn.

11th October 1968 - Apollo 7 was launched from Cape Kennedy, making it the first manned flight of the Command Module that would carry men to the moon.

11th October 1882 - The Mary Rose, Henry VIII's flag ship, was raised from its position on the bed of The Solent - 437 years after sinking while still in harbour.

12th October 1913 - The first Morris Minor family car is built at Cowley in Oxford.

13th October 1884 - Greenwich Mean Time started.

14th October 1066 - The Battle of Hastings (or Battle of Senlac Hill), on the southern coast of England. An English army, commanded by King Harold, is defeated by the invasion force of William of Normandy. King Harold is killed and William 'The Conqueror' is proclaimed king of England.

14th October 1884 - Photographic film patented.

14th October 1926 - Winnie-the Pooh was first published. Written by A.A Milne (1882-1956)

14th October 1979 - Sony invents the first Walkman. Over 3 billion sold in the first 20 years.

16th October 1834 - The original Houses of Parliament in London are almost completely destroyed by fire.

16th October 1958 - Britain's most popular children's television programme 'Blue Peter' is first broadcast on the BBC on BBC TV.

18th October - St Luke's Day. One of the four Gospel writers and patron saint of doctors.

20th October 1966 - The first message was sent between two computers in California, USA.

21st October 1805 - The Battle of Trafalgar. A British fleet under Admiral Horatio Nelson defeats a combined French and Spanish fleet, fought off the coast of Spain. Nelson was wounded, and died a few hours later.

24th October - United Nations Day

25th October - St Crispin's Day, Patron Saint of Shoemakers.

28th October - Feast of St Jude. Patron Saint of 'hopeless cases'.

St James Church Donation Draw

on 31st October 2020



PRIZES

1st Meon Pizza – 1 x Garlic Bread, 2x Pizza's, 1 Pudding Pizza

2nd Hair – Cut & Blow Dry – Clara Byrd

3rd Gas Boiler Service

4th BTB Dog Supplies – Treats Box for the dogs

Virtual donations to paypal.me/pools/c/8sgHf6ep15

Or pop in to the Poppin Shop in Long Marston

Leave name & number in the box or send to pccmeon2020@gmail.com

Any small donation gratefully received



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Last Month's quiz answers

- 1 200 pounds for passing go in Monopoly
- 2 7 sides on a fifty pence piece
- 3 4 Quarts in a gallon
- 4 24 Hours in a day
- 5 1 Wheel on a unicycle
- 6 57 Heinz varieties
- 7 11 Players in a football team
- 8 29 Days in February in a leap year
- 9 64 Squares on a chess board
- 10 76 Trombones in the big parade.

Genuine Complaints received by Local Councils

- Would you please send a man to repair my spout. I am an old age pensioner and need it badly.
- This is to let you know that our lavatory seat is broke and we can't get BBC2
- I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is coming away from the wall.

Kids Spooky Jokes

What kind of music do mummies love?
Wrap music

Why didn't the skeleton go to school?
Because his heart wasn't in it

How do ghosts wash their hair?
With shamboo

What is a monster's favourite dessert?
I scream!!!

What did the ghost say when the skeleton lied to him?
I can see right through you

Have you taken any good photographs of our Parish during lockdown?

Would you like to share them? Send them to Margaret Clarke at communities@marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk and with your permission we will put the best one on the cover of the Marston Sicca Parish Newsletter.

Some more fantastic photos of our budding sunflower enthusiasts :)



Contacts

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ian Johnsey	Chairman
Bill Tempest	Vice Chairman
Anthony Hodge	Councillor
Noel Davis	Councillor
Michael Hillier	Councillor
Margaret Clarke	Councillor
Barbara Craig	Councillor
Debbie Woodliffe	Clerk

01789 721881
marstonsicca@gmail.com

ST JAMES THE GREAT

Rector Rev Ros Greenhalgh
01789 751546
revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com
Church Warden Carol Watts
01789 507319

DEFIBRILLATOR

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Steph Hillier 07720 975023
marstoneditor@yahoo.com

POLICE

Emergency only – 999
Non urgent contact – 101

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Jackie Johnson 01789 720328

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www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk/ship

THE POPPIN VILLAGE STORE

01789 721011

PC1681 Craig Purcell,
Shipston Police Station 01789 444670
shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

THE POST OFFICE, LONG MARSTON

01789 721411

NOMINATED SAFE-GUARDING PERSON

Liz Marcuse 01789 720796

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

WEBSITE

www.longmarstonvillage.co.uk



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In store you will find an eclectic mix of home interior goods both new & contemporary as well as carefully selected & on trend antiques. Home accessories such as table lamps, high quality faux flowers & plants, vintage garden pots & even classic children's toys are all displayed alongside the incredible pieces of furniture sourced from the UK & around the world. We also have a range of bespoke sofas & tables available to order in various styles & materials.

Bonds is also host to several antique dealers showcasing French, English, Swedish, Indian and Chinese antiques from different periods whether it be Art Deco or Mid Century we've got it all! You can also find vintage & reworked clothing & accessories, stamps & collectibles and last but not least the extremely popular Rebecca Tracey (upstairs) with Aromatherapy candles, diffusers, room sprays, perfume and much more.

After a good mooch around the store enjoy a cup of tea or coffee in our Cafe which offers both breakfast, lunch & of course lots of yummy cakes. You could even have yourself a glass of wine. Our food is locally sourced and our chefs are excellent! Bonds is a space that is always evolving, adding to and improving its offerings and we have recently added a YURT outside - exciting things to come! We look forward to welcoming you to Bonds Lifestyle.



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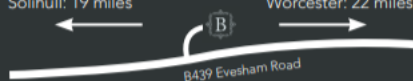
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