



Marston Sicca

Parish Newsletter

March 2021



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RED NOSE DAY IS BACK

Red Nose Day is back on Friday 19th March and this year it's never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives. We need the power of funny to turn laughs into lasting change. So whatever you can do, please join us.





Parish Council News

The Parish Council meeting was again organised remotely and pleased to report unlike other 'more famous meetings' it went without issue with nobody being muted or asked to leave.

Councillor Perteghella confirmed the local elections postponed from May last year due to the coronavirus pandemic, will now take place on Thursday 6th May 2021. Further discussions are also taking place regarding the possible merger of WCC and SDC.

Agreement was made to replace certain bins in the village and to organise new collections for bins located by Barley Fields play area (including new signage) and by the Perry Orchard open space. Bins located by play areas will not be for dog waste. With the latter in mind, we will be placing some new dog fouling signs in certain areas due to the repeated problem of dog waste being left.

The council discussed the condition of Public Footpaths and Right of way with specific reference to SD39 where in places it is confusing and difficult to access. WCC have been contacted and further discussions will take place (including with respective landowners) to ensure the footpath is usable.

Cllr. Johnsey organised to meet the ground maintenance contractor for the village to determine the immediate work needed to be done on the Perry Orchard open space. After further discussions with Lagan Homes and SDC, we have been informed the planting of the orchard and other planning conditions are likely to be actioned in March. With the land transfer in mind, the parish council are looking to determine a work schedule and likely costs for getting the space fit for purpose.

Editor's Notes

Just in the last few weeks there is a definite change in the air. Beautiful spring flowers are blooming, the light is changing, and the nights progressively getting longer. Then, finally, we see real hope for the country after Boris announced his 'cautious' plan to lift lockdown, in his speech on February 22nd. (There is an article showing the breakdown of the plan on P10.)

This month we have quite a few celebrations. St David's Day on the 1st, Mother's Day on Sunday 14th, St Patrick's Day on the 17th, Red Nose Day on Friday 19th. (see comicrelief.com), and Palm Sunday on the 28th. Apologies if I have missed any!

The Poppin are celebrating their twentieth anniversary this year. A huge thank you to all the dedicated committee members and volunteers that have dedicated their time to keep The Poppin part of our community. With lockdown lifting, they are looking to recruit new volunteers who can spare a couple of hours a week, or fortnightly if preferred. Contact Wiggy Taylor at wiggytaylor@gmail.com if interested.

If you want a true sense of spring, and a good old fashioned dose of happiness, go to Lower Clopton Farm Shop and Café Facebook page to see live lambing, and general lamb frolics!

Take care,

Steph

With regards to speed calming, there are two proposed build outs; one is near to Dorsington Road and the other is at the end of the Village via Long Marston Road. There are four 6-metre streetlights with two at each build-out, positioned either side with 42W LED lanterns appropriate to the width of the road, installed to the British Standard, enabling correct illumination/visibility for approaching vehicles from both directions. Thereafter, County Highways will

construct the build outs as these need to be illuminated beforehand.

The continuing cooperation between Marston Sicca and Quinton Parish Council is enabling specific projects within Meon Vale to take shape. Preparation to open the Pavilion Coffee Shop is making good progress aided by the dedication of the community centre manager and a committed team of volunteers. In addition, we would like to give a big thank you to The Restaurant Group who have provided essential equipment and endless support during these challenging times.

The Parish Council agreed to support a working study for:

Stratford-Long Marston-Honeybourne-Worcester/Oxford railway-SWO

On 25 November 2020, a bid for an Economic Impact Study submitted by four local Rail User Groups* to the Department of Transport's 'Restoring Your Railway' programme was successful.

The bid is supported by 11 M.P.'s with Nigel Huddleston MP as the lead and has the endorsement of a further 18 organisations which include Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire County Councils together with Stratford on Avon, Wychavon and Cotswold District Councils.

The 'Restoring your Railway' programme helps fund transport and economic studies and the successful bid will now help determine a business case for restoration of the rail link between Stratford-Long Marston-Honeybourne which, if viable, would enable rail connectivity with Oxford and Worcester.

The Department for Transport will fund 75% of costs up to £50,000 for successful study and business case proposals. A further £18,000 has been pledged by local authorities and the rail user groups.

The Parish Council have simply at this stage, agreed to support the study.

With plans agreed and first payment made, the Parish Council are looking forward to seeing an enhanced play area to Barley Fields. Work should start shortly as the timeline for completion is mid-April.

PLANNING REPORT

20/01132/OUT, Rainbow Nursery, proposed site for 21 industrial units.

This site is actually in Welford Parish.

Planning permission was refused by SDC as it would result in the creation of an industrial estate on Greenfield land in an open countryside location. Also, it does not accord with policy CS.15 concerning the distribution of development, or AS.10/CS.22 concerning acceptable development within open countryside. It also does not accord with Welford-on-Avon neighbourhood plan policy HE5. SDC also go on to state that the Flood Risk Assessment submitted fails to demonstrate the site can be drained in a feasible manner to not increase flood risk and therefore does not accord with policy CS.4 of the Core Strategy.

Application - Refused.

20/03062/LDP, Valentines, application for Lawful Development to erect a Garden Studio for office/gym use by applicant.

This application accords with policies governing this type of building with respect to height (max. 2.5m), is not over development of the site, is not forward of the main house, and is located on the site boundary overlooking open fields. Such a building would enable the applicant to better work from home.

Decision: – No objection

20/03723/REM (Outline approval 14/01186/OUT), St Modwen, Phase 4D, seeking reserved matters approval for 73 dwellings with associated works and is to be considered in conjunction with accompanying full application for 23 dwellings which completes the phase 4D site.

This part of the Meon Vale development is south west of the Persimmon and Redrow phases and is largely centred around the existing lake which is to be retained and enhanced. The tenure mixes of open market dwellings and affordable houses accord with SDC current policies.

Decision: Further clarification required. Cllr. Tempest to revert.

Garden Village Roundabout/Gateway

After initial site groundwork and the building of showhouses for marketing purposes, the next priority is to complete the access roundabout off the Campden road which will serve as a gateway into both LMA 400 and the larger LMA 3,100. This work is to start around mid/end February with the actual link to the Campden Road being into April along with the footpath/cycle to link with existing ones into Quinton. This will entail some traffic disruption by way of traffic light control.

20/00608/REM, LMA 400, Vistry Group Application - Reserved matters approval granted for the building of the first phase of the Garden Village comprising 154 dwellings.

Next Meeting 15th March 2021

Debbie Woodliffe Parish Clerk.



Catherine Brown – 3rd March

Henry Gray – 15th March

Struan Brown – 16th march

Samuel Potter – 23rd March

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

COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE/CARE

These are uncertain times. We are mindful of the impact that this can impose upon some of our community, possibly resulting in dramatic changes to personal circumstances - be it health and/or financial difficulties. As a community, we shall continue to pull together, offering support and assistance.

We have the following support systems in place:

Community Care – collection and delivery of prescriptions/shopping to vulnerable or isolating households. Please contact **Simon Hanagarth (0795588529)** or **Matt Neville (07753904304)**.

Community Food Share – Operated by a small team of volunteers who distribute food to those who require extra help

during this pandemic. Please contact **Stephenie Hillier (07720975023)** or **Debbie Woodliffe (07845437702)**. All inquiries and conversations are strictly confidential.

If you would like to donate food towards **The Community Food Share** there will be a collection box outside **The Poppin, Long Marston** and inside **Londis, Meon Vale**. Thank you.



Report from your District Councillor



Dear Residents

Hope you are all keeping well. I'm writing with some updates and news, which I hope you will find of interest.

Local Elections

The Government has confirmed that County Council and Police and Crime

Commissioner Elections will currently go ahead on May 6th. Of course, with COVID 19 there are some issues to consider for these elections, such making sure polling stations are safe, with enough social distancing space, hand sanitiser, floor markings and face coverings. The government is to provide an extra £31m across all councils to compensate for difficulties in running the elections during the pandemic, and although they recognise polling staff vulnerability is a key issue, they will currently not prioritise them for vaccination. Information about these elections in general, including postal vote and proxy vote registration, can be found on the Stratford District Council website:

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/elections-2021--frequently-asked-questions.cfm>

District Council Merger

As you might have read in the news recently, Stratford and Warwick District Councils are proposing to merge into one district council. There is already some joint working going on, particularly in planning policy and the two Councils already share two management roles. A Deloitte report was recently commissioned by the Councils. This has found a potential opportunity to generate annual net savings of £4.6m after Year 5, as well as other benefits. The proposal is for the merger to be achieved by 2024. Between then and now there is much investigation to be done. The Deloitte report was published on the SDC website with the 9th February Cabinet meeting's papers. The business case in the report also sets out a

reduction in the number of elected councillors as a result of the merger. This, as well as other aspects, including council tax alignment and planning, are important issues that we shall scrutinise in-depth.

Business Support Grants

The Council is currently administering eight grant schemes from central government as part of its COVID-19 support for businesses. The grants cover any businesses which have been affected from November 2020 through to the current national lockdown which began in January 2021, and the recently announced Scheme from the Chancellor (National Lockdown Grants). If you have a business and have already made an application for one of the grants, you do not need to apply again as the Council will be using the original application. If you have not completed a form since November then you can still apply. More information and the application form can be found on the SDC website (link below). If you are in doubt or have any query, please do contact the Council.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/coronavirus/local-restrictions-support-grant-national-lockdown.cfm>

Vaccinations

The latest update (as per 12 February) provided by NHS England for Coventry and Warwickshire is that there have been 183,328 doses given in Coventry and Warwickshire with

- 92.55% of the over 80s vaccinated
- 98.63% of 75-79 vaccinated
- 81.58% of 70-74 vaccinated

If you are over the age of 70, or have previously received a letter saying that you are at high risk from coronavirus, and you've not yet had your first vaccination, please know you can now book a coronavirus vaccination by calling your GP practice, or call the NHS on 119 or book online via the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Full Council meeting 22 February Motion for tackling food insecurity and promoting food justice

I have proposed a motion to tackle food poverty and household food insecurity in our district, which have, sadly, increased during the pandemic. I have asked Council to

- Investigate the extent and causes of food insecurity in our district and make recommendations about what can be done to tackle it, ensuring people get the right support.
- Set up a local food poverty action plan working in partnerships with local foodbanks, other tiers of government and other stakeholders to tackle the identified causes of food poverty and promote food justice locally.
- Encourage potential sites for food growing by supporting allotments and community orchard provisions, and helping with finding and accessing space for community food growing, and advising on leases and agreements.
- Write to our local MPs asking them to make urgent representations to the Government on the issue of household food insecurity and poverty, and ask for targeted local welfare support.

The motion will be presented to Cabinet and a recommendation will be then sent to the next Full Council meeting. I will update you on this motion.

I have also submitted written questions regarding the Test and Trace payment scheme, and about the lack of proper parking infrastructure for HGVs and lorries in our district which can result in littering in rural roads and laybys.

Budget amendments

As the main opposition group at the Council, we have put forward our budget amendments and alternatives to the Conservatives' proposed budget. These will be debated together with the draft budget at the Full Council meeting on 22 February.

Among our amendments:

Business Support to assist with the Recovery from COVID When the recovery from COVID is underway, the Council should assist local businesses as much as possible. We propose to recruit a senior Business Support and Development Officer for a two-year contract, to encourage economic wellbeing and development in the district. This post would bring extra economic development expertise, prepare and coordinate competitive bids, develop a partnership approach to investing in skills, creating jobs and supporting innovation and assist in improving our town centres.

A Community Climate Change Fund to enable community groups to promote change to achieve the Council's net zero target by the provision of grants. This proposal allows for a sum of £100,000 (Ring-fenced from the £500,000 Climate Change Reserve) to be used for grants to support a range of initiatives.

UPDATE on proposed changes to parking charges

The Cabinet's recommendations were for significant changes to parking in district council car parks. Following my colleague Cllr Kate Rolfe's 'call-in' to Cabinet about the decision to abolish the over 65s parking permit, it was announced that this decision will now be delayed and will be reviewed. There will now be a full report on the costs of the scheme. The report should then go to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when it will be debated, and a recommendation will then go to Cabinet.

Stratford District Council is also carrying out public consultation on the proposed introduction of new parking charges and the length of time vehicles can be parked for. Responses must be received by 26th March. You can fill the survey on the website www.stratford.gov.uk/parking-consultation or email consultation@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Green Bin Collection charges, food waste caddies

Residents have asked me about the free food waste caddies (which can be used if you do not want to continue with the green bin collection

from 1st April). The caddies have a capacity of 10 litres and residents can have up to three. The food caddies are available free of charge, on request. Call the council on 01789 260628 or email: streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk

If you want to keep having your green waste collected you can sign up between 11 January and 28 February for a first year's discount of £5 to £35 for the year. It's £40 after that. You can sign by following the link: www.stratford.gov.uk/gardenwaste or by calling 01789 260628. I will be monitoring the impact of the green bin charge in my ward, so please do let me know of any incidents of fly tipping for example, and other related issues, from the 1st April.

Warwickshire fuel poverty initiative (WHSL)

There is new initiative raising awareness of the crisis of fuel poverty and calling for greater action. The partnership includes local charity Act on Energy. Anyone who is struggling or needs support with energy costs, can contact Warm and Well in Warwickshire on 0800 988 2881, a call free number, and get the help they need with independent energy advice and support including help with billing issues, tariff switching, insulation and heating grants including first time central heating and green homes grants.

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

Stay safe and warmest best wishes

Cllr Manuela Perteghella

Email: Manuela.perteghella@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Mob. 07870488071

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CllrManuelaPerteghellaWelford>

CllrManuelaPerteghellaWelford

Long Marston Gardening Club

Sadly, there are still no visits to gorgeous gardens, but I have been on a couple of walks with carpets of snow drops. They can be spotted behind the Church in Luddington, and at the edge of Woodpeckers, Marlcliff (down the track towards the river). In the meantime, here are some suggestions by the RHS for tasks during March.

- Protect New spring shoots from slugs.
- Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes.
- Plant summer flowering bulbs.
- Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials.
- Top dress containers with fresh compost.
- Mow the lawn on dry days if needed.

Wiggy Taylor

wiggytaylor@gmail.com

Dog Thefts

Warwickshire police recently posted that they are aware of concerns in the rise of dogs being stolen.

This is some advice they have shared:

- To make sure that your dogs are microchipped, all contact details are up to date, and they have an ID tag. - Have clear photos of your dog, with any distinct markings, to help with identification purposes.
- Do not leave dogs tied up outside shops, or leave them in the car.
- Be careful what you post on social media, especially if you have had puppies.

For more information and advice go to

www.warwickshirepolice.uk

and go to dog theft advice.

What does Lent mean to you?

'It feels as if Lent has lasted a year since the last lockdown. We've gone without for so long – the last thing we feel like is abstinence. But Lent isn't about punishing ourselves. It's about drawing closer to Christ and allowing Him to share in our struggles.' **Archbishop Justin Welby**

Lent, what does it mean to you? Does it mean denying yourself chocolates, alcohol, box sets? Do you associate it with a time of stress, as my dad used to when his own father gave up cigarettes for 40 days? Maybe, you have never thought about what Lent is and it means nothing to you. So, what is it all about? We know already that Lent is a time when people give things up, but it can also be a time to take things on. In the Christian tradition, Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter Sunday during which, we remember the time Jesus spent in the desert. Why was Jesus there and what can we learn from his time there? The first thing it teaches us is that even the son of God had to take time out. Life is busy and hectic, but even with all the time we have had to ourselves due to Covid, we can still fail to be still and really contemplate life. Maybe this is a time to try praying! Or maybe, if you have tried before but it hasn't 'worked', you might find listening to the daily app 'Lectio365' helpful, as it runs through a series called 'God on mute'. Secondly, it teaches us that Jesus was fully human and went through struggles, just as we struggle. In his time in the desert, he was hungry, tempted to do wrong things, tired and weary. I don't know about you, but the last two emotions I can really relate to at the moment. The last year has been tiring for most people and during this third lockdown, I see my friends and family (and myself included) even more weary with the emotional strain of it all. It gives me great comfort to know that the same God that made the world, also came down to earth as a human and can relate to our own experiences in life. He knows what I feel like and he wants to help me in them. Thirdly it challenges me to keep going. At the end of Lent is Easter Day when we remember Jesus rising from the dead and bringing new life to us all. Whatever you're going through at the moment, know that there is always hope

when we trust in a God who loves and cares for us unconditionally and wants to know us personally. Trusting in God is not a big, scary step to take, even if it might feel like it and it might sound weird and strange. Faith 'like a grain of mustard seed', the smallest seed to be grown in soil, is all you need to start. So why not take up something new this Lent, instead of giving something up and try talking to your father in heaven? He will be happy to hear from you!

Every blessing, Becca.

Becca is currently a reluctant homeschool teacher who is hoping to get back to secondary teaching soon. She is a member of the churches of the benefice, and helps run the toddler group on Meon Vale.

Village Hall

The committee held a zoom meeting on Tuesday 8th February.

A major topic to discuss, sadly, was the state of the halls roof, which has extensive internal damp and mould. We have received grants through lockdown, which the committee were in discussion to use for decorating. We have professionals coming in to evaluate the situation on Friday 26th February, and an update will be given in next month's newsletter.

We are looking for new committee members, who have vision and enthusiasm. If interested, please contact simon@hanagarth.co.uk. Thank you.

The AGM has been set for Monday 10th May at 6pm. Details of how that will be held, will also be detailed in next month's newsletter.

A helpful guide to how lockdown will be lifted

Boris Johnson has announced detailed plans for the unlocking of England amid the coronavirus vaccination programme. Here is the proposed timetable, in four stages, and other initiatives announced by Downing Street.

No 10 is stressing that after the first step the subsequent stages of reopening could be subject to delay and that the programme would be guided by “data rather than dates”.

There is a minimum of five weeks between each stage – four weeks to collect and assess data and then a week for people and businesses to prepare for the next step.

All the changes will be England-wide with no return to regional tiers. The only exception could be localised efforts if a new variant of the virus is detected.

Step 1, part 1 – 8 March

- All pupils and college students return fully, with before- and after-school clubs opened. For a period, secondary school pupils and older will wear masks in classes.
- People can meet one other person outside for, say, a coffee or picnic, not just for exercise. Children will still count towards this.
- Care home residents can receive one regular, named visitor.
- The “stay at home” order will otherwise stay in place.

Step 1, part 2 – 29 March

- Outdoor gatherings allowed of up to six people, or two households if this is larger, not just in parks but also gardens.
- Outdoor sport for children and adults will be allowed including outdoor swimming pools.

- The official stay at home order will end, but people will be encouraged to stay local – the definition of local will largely be left to people’s discretion.
- People will still be asked to work from home where possible, with no overseas travel allowed beyond the current small number of exceptions.

Step 2 – no earlier than 12 April

- Reopening of non-essential retail, hair and nail salons, and public buildings such as libraries.
- Most outdoor venues open, including pubs and restaurants but only for outdoor tables and beer gardens. Customers will have to be seated but there will be no need to have a meal with alcohol.
- Also reopening will be settings such as zoos and theme parks. However, social contact rules will apply here, so no indoor mixing between households and limits on outdoor mixing.
- Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms and pools can also open but again people can only go alone or with their own household.
- Reopening of holiday lets with no shared facilities, but only for one household.
- Funerals can have up to 30 attendees, while weddings, receptions and wakes can have 15.
- While it is not part of step 2, this is the earliest point after which the bulk of university students could know about the resumption of face-to-face classes. A review of this will take place at the end of the Easter holidays.

Step 3 – no earlier than 17 May

- Most mixing rules lifted outdoors, with a limit of 30 people meeting in parks or gardens.
- Indoor mixing will be allowed, up to six people or, if it is more people, two households.
- Indoor venues such as the inside of pubs and restaurants, hotels and B&Bs, play centres, cinemas, museums, and group exercise classes will reopen. The new indoor and outdoor mixing limits will remain for pubs and other hospitality venues.
- This will be the earliest date at which international holidays could resume, subject to a review – see the list of reviews below.
- For sport, indoor venues can have up to 1,000 spectators or half capacity, whichever is lower; outdoors the limit will be 4,000 people or half capacity, whichever is lower. Very large outdoor seated venues, such as big football stadiums, where crowds can be spread out, will have a limit of 10,000 people, or a quarter full, whichever is fewer.
- Weddings will be allowed a limit of 30 people, with other events such as christenings and bar mitzvahs also permitted.

Step 4 – no earlier than 21 June

- All legal limits removed on mixing will be removed and the last sectors to remain closed, such as nightclubs, will reopen. Large events can take place.
- There are likely to be changes to wider social distancing measures, but this will be decided in a separate review.

Kids Jokes for Mother's Day

Child: Dad, do you know the difference between a pack of cookies and a pack of elephants?

Dad: No.

Child: Then it's a good thing Mum does the food shopping!

Q: Why did the monsters Mum knit him three socks?

A: She heard he grew another foot!

Q: What did the baby corn say to the mum corn?

A: Where's popcorn?

Q: What do you call a mum who can't draw?

A: Tracy.

Q: What do you call a small Mum?

A: A minimum.

And the best one:

Q: Why don't they have Mother's Day sales?

A: Because Mothers are priceless.

Long Marston Ladies



Our talented Long Marston Lady Mary Day taught us how to use silk offcuts to create beautiful greetings cards at our last Zoom meeting. Mary had put kits together for those who wanted to take part, while others joined the meeting just to catch up. The finished cards and bookmarks gave a stained- glass appearance, and with added glitter, were enchanting. Everyone who made them were delighted to have special cards to send to friends or family.

Stay safe.

Angela and Sheila

Celebrating 20 years The Poppin and The Post Office



The shop is celebrating its 20 years as a community venture. It has made small profits each year, which are ploughed back into the shop and village, improving our services to the community. The shop is based on the Industrial Providence Society model, all profits and share holdings are held in reserve.

Come and join us keep our shop ALIVE

It is important for people to become shareholders in this venture. Each share costs £10.00. Only one share per person can be purchased. Shares are non-redeemable, but it does give you a voice. You can attend the annual AGM each year.

Whether you are a shareholder or not, if you have any ideas to improve the shop, or indeed stock requests, please don't

hesitate to let someone on the Shop Committee know.

Should you need any further information, please contact Simon Kiener, Chairman of the Shop Committee.

Due to Covid, there can be no parties. Please keep an eye out for our special raffles, competitions, and promotions in the coming months.

Margaret Clarke

**Don't forget Mother's Day
on 14th March.**

We will have Mother's Day cards
and potted plants for sale.

Competition Time - The Poppin

To celebrate **The Poppins twentieth anniversary**, we are having a children's writing and drawing competition.

Writing Competition - for Children Ages 7 to 13

Title - Why is the shop important to you and the village?

All entries must be given in to The Poppin by Friday 26th March.

Please remember to put your name, age, and phone number on your entry.

First Prize £10.00.

Second prize £5.00.

All entrants will receive a chocolate egg.

Drawing competition - for children Ages 2 to 6

Subject - Our shop and Post Office (this could be pictures of food or the shop/post office.)

All entries must be given in to The Poppin by Friday the 28th March.

Please remember to put your name, age, and phone number on the back of your entry.

First prize £5.00.

Second prize £2.50.

All entrants will receive a chocolate egg.

Good luck

Margaret Clarke (Committee)

Nosh and Natter Group

Luncheons, Trips4U, Meon Tea and Chatter, + New Nosh on Wheels

Hello everyone and hope that you are adjusting to the new circumstances and keeping safe.

Following the recent announcements from The Government about the new variant of Covid 19 it may still be a while before our Lunches can take place. However, we are hoping that if everything goes to plan our lunches may restart in July 2021, and the Meon Tea and Chatter in August.

Trips4U

We are now able to confirm the following Day Trips: -

Weston Super Mare with an afternoon Tea on the way home September 6th, 2021

Hereford for festive shopping and lunch November 15th 2021.

Turkey Tinsel Holiday

This will be going ahead on Monday November 29th for 4 nights and the resort is now offering an inclusive package including tea/coffee/drinks with some exceptions.

Nosh on Wheels

This venture is still going ahead till July 2021 following the governments opening up plans after lockdown. The team of volunteers and Isobel Slatter thank the members for all the messages of gratitude and praise.

Meon Vale

The Elf's from the Santa weekend are looking to plan something for Easter so please look out for the posters and Facebook page for their plans.

In the meantime: - Please Keep Safe and follow the Governments regulations for Covid so that we can all start to get back to normal by June 21st as planned.

Barbara Craig

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Long Marston W.I.

Our members were all missing our face-to-face meetings, so one dull, dreary day at the end of January they each found a 'little bit of spring' on their doorstep. Locals received pots of bulbs and those further afield were posted packets of seeds. This proved the stimulant needed to reconnect us all and achieve instigating a monthly meeting via zoom. So, in February, after a crazy start with different era iPads and laptops and inadequate skills, Lisa Blaxall patiently had us all up and running and we were able to see each other and chat and plan the future. Warwickshire W.I. do put on zoom events and activities but with the closing down of the W.I Denman College. Denman at Home is open to all and have some interesting lectures. Go to their website and click on, 'What's on Denman College' - scroll down, and you can immerse yourself in crafts, virtual visits e.g. Rome, lectures, yoga and of course cooking! There is usually a £5.00 charge but do have a recky!

Diz Marcuse





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

Stratford Home & Garden Ltd



Handyman Services

- Property Repairs
- Garden Maintenance

Dmitri Hancock

**Mobile: 01789 720099
or 0778 347 5552**

contact@stratfordhomeandgarden.co.uk
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MEON VALE

Building a New Community

We are really pleased to announce that at an online meeting on 18th Feb, the Meon Vale Residents' Association (MVRA) was launched. Following a consultation with residents to agree the aims of the group, a constitution was adopted with nine officers elected to form the Executive Committee which has Rosemary Kidd as the Chair. MVRA was formed due to residents' concerns over not having a combined voice in community matters, particularly as the village crosses several local authority boundaries (parish, district, and county). This coupled with the need to be represented by an independent group and driven by a desire to make our village an inclusive and supportive community for everyone. We also hope to encourage and support different village events and activities. Crucially, the new group will be managed by residents for residents, being transparent in the group's actions and activities and accessible to all residents. The executive committee posts are currently for a term of one year, then officers will be re-elected on an annual basis.

The group's initial plans are to further consult with residents over priorities for MVRA, to agree the best methods of communication and to find out how

residents want to be involved. Do keep an eye out on social media for news and updates and invitations for meetings and how you can join the group and help shape our village. Alternatively, please email meonvaleresidents@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list. We understand that some people may be hesitant about involvement in a community group but being proactive in your community can be a really positive step and a good way to meet your neighbours and like-minded people (albeit difficult to meet people at the moment). It will be entirely up to residents as to how much they wish to participate in the new group, but as with the woodlands, we have already proven that when we work together, we can make a real difference.

St Modwen has also announced plans for a resident's working group. MVRA is completely independent of Meon Vale Management Company or the St Modwen Working Group, however, we are looking forward to discussing with St Modwen and the relevant local authorities, how we can work together to benefit our growing community, our wonderful new village and the many assets and facilities we enjoy in Meon Vale.

COVID-19 VACCINE FACT CHECK



The COVID-19 vaccine will always be available free of charge.



The NHS will never ask you to share bank details to confirm your identity.

WORDSEARCH

Spring Time

O	H	S	D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	S	P	G
S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	O	O	L	R	L	N
N	O	E	N	T	S	B	T	S	S	D	S	A	D
B	G	S	O	R	H	L	E	I	T	D	P	Y	G
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S	N	U	H	N	I	N	N	W	L	H	U	B	A
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N	S	N	B	O	R	O	P	S	G	G	E	S	S
G	S	W	A	W	P	B	U	L	B	S	A	W	O

HAPPY

PLAYGROUND

NESTS

SUNSHINE

BLOSSOM

GREEN GRASS

SNOW DROPS

EGGS

RAINBOW

TULIP

LAMBS

BIRDSONG

HAPPINESS

DAFFODILS

BULBS

RAIN

HAPPY
Mother's Day

SUNDAY 14TH MARCH

AFTERNOON TEA

DELIVERY BETWEEN 12PM-4PM

BOOK EARLY NO AVOID MISSING OUT

SANDWICHES

CORONATION CHICKEN - SALMON & CREAM CHEESE
TUNA & CUCUMBER - ENGLISH BRIE & CRANBERRY

HOMEMADE SCONES

SERVED WITH STRAWBERRY JAM, CLOTTED CREAM & FRESH STRAWBERRIES

SWEET TREATS

SELECTION OF TRAY BAKES, LOAF CAKES & CUPCAKES

SAVOURY

LOCAL MINI PORK PIES WITH RED ONION CHUTNEY

SERVED WITH

OUR HOMEMADE CREAMY COLESLAW, SIDE SALAD & TWINNINGS ENGLISH TEA

£12.95 PER HEAD - MINIMUM 2 PEOPLE

KIDS PORTIONS CAN BE DISCUSSED WHEN BOOKING

ADD 2 GLASSES OF PROSECCO £5.50

ADD LARGE BOTTLE OF PROSECCO £15

ADD 4 J20 DRINKS £8

SUNDAY LUNCH ALSO AVAILABLE - BOOK YOURS NOW

BOOK ONLINE OR CALL US THURS-SAT FROM 4PM

ORDER CUT OFF IS WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH

ONLINE DISCOUNT CODES NOT VALID

THESE WILL SELL OUT FAST SO DON'T DELAY



ADD FLOWERS £5

ADD CHOCOLATES £5



Want to know which fruit and vegetables are in season in March?

Want to know which fruit and vegetables are in season in March?

The Fruit to Eat Now – Rhubarb

Yes, it's slim pickings for British seasonal fruit right now. There's very little in season in March because we're in the Hungry Gap.

This is the period in spring when there is very little by way of fresh produce to harvest. The winter root vegetables are on their way out, and fresh produce does not tend to be ready to harvest until later on in the season.

The Vegetables to Eat Now

Cabbage – Savoy and Spring Green, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Chicory, Jerusalem Artichoke, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Parsnips, Potatoes (maincrop) Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Salsify, Shallots

Parsnip soup with parsley cream

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 700g parsnips, cut into chunks
- 400ml milk
- 400ml vegetable stock
- 3 bay leaves

For the parsley purée & cream

- 160g parsley
- 150ml double cream
- 150ml whipping cream, whipped to soft peaks

For the garnish

- 1 parsnip, cut into small cubes
- 1 tbsp olive oil

Method

1. Heat the oil in a saucepan and fry the onion until soft but not coloured. Stir in the parsnips, bay leaves, milk and stock, bring to the boil and simmer gently until the parsnip is very soft. Remove the bay leaves and drain off, but

reserve the liquid. Whizz the parsnips in a blender, adding a little of the cooking liquid at a time until smooth. Keep adding liquid until you reach a lovely soup consistency that's not too thick.

2. For the parsley purée and cream, blanch the parsley in boiling salted water for 30 secs, then refresh in ice water – this keeps the green colour. Repeat this twice. Bring the double cream to the boil. Squeeze out any water from the parsley, then whizz in a clean blender, slowly adding the hot cream until it's as smooth as you can get it. Cool. Fold a little of the parsley purée through the whipped cream until nice and green. Season and chill. Keep the remaining purée for serving.

3. For the garnish, blanch the parsnip cubes in boiling water for 2 mins, then drain. Heat the olive oil in a pan and fry the cubes until golden. Keep warm.

4. To serve, reheat the parsnip soup and season to taste. Place a little of the parsley purée into each of 6 shallow soup bowls, followed by the soup, a spoonful of the parsley whipped cream and some fried parsnip cubes.

Alcoholic Rhubarb Cordial Recipe

This alcoholic rhubarb cordial is the perfect grown-up treat – tasty, sweet and decadent, it's perfect on the rocks or mixed with tonic, soda or sparkling lemonade.

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Servings: 500 ml

Ingredients

- 900 g of rhubarb stalks roughly six large stalks
- 750 ml of vodka
- 250 g of granulated sugar
- A sterilised 1 litre capacity large jam jar.

Method

1. Wash your rhubarb stalks and chop roughly into one-inch pieces. There's no need to peel the rhubarb.
2. Place your chopped rhubarb pieces into your jar and add the sugar.
3. Pour in the vodka, until all the rhubarb is covered. You will end up with a fair bit of vodka leftover – that's ok – as long as the jar is filled to the top with vodka.
4. Give it a good shake until as much sugar is dissolved as possible, and then leave the jar in a cool dark spot for 4 weeks. Give it a shake every now and again to help dissolve the sugar.
5. After four weeks sieve the mix into a bowl and discard the rhubarb. Decant the liquid into a sterilised bottle and enjoy. Bottled up, it can last for around 12 months, meaning you can enjoy a taste of summer on the dullest darkest days of winter!



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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

SO WE CAN FULLY OPEN FROM THE 12TH OF MAY! AFTER BEING CLOSED FOR TEN MONTHS SINCE MARCH 2020 WE WANT TO MAKE THIS A SUMMER TO REMEMBER!

TO GIVE US A HELPING HAND WITH THE GARDENS THIS YEAR WE ARE TURNING TO OUR AMAZING COMMUNITY TO GROW, BUY OR DONATE A FLOWER, PLANT OR BUSH, READY FOR PLANTING AT THE START OF MAY GET THE KIDS INVOLVED AND THEY CAN COME ALONG AND PLANT THEIR DONATION WITH A NAME TAG NEXT TO IT

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How to test smoke alarms in your home

Did you know that there are around 37,000 house fires in the UK every year? Despite best efforts from the fire and rescue service, some lead to fatalities, with figures showing house fires are claiming the lives of at least 200 people a year.

Having a smoke alarm installed in your property is one of the best ways to keep you and your family safe. It will give you advanced warning of a fire and more time to react. When escaping a fire every second counts, so your smoke alarm must remain in good working condition.

According to First Alert's survey many battery operated smoke alarms did not sound during a fire. Why? Because the batteries were either missing, flat or had been disconnected.

No one wants to put their loved ones at risk because they forgot to test the smoke alarm. This is your reminder to do it now.

Below you'll find a complete guide to testing your smoke alarm and how to change its batteries. Smoke alarm beeping without battery? Don't panic, we've got hard-wired detectors covered too. So what are you waiting for? Let's get started...

How to test your smoke alarm

Wondering how to test smoke alarm batteries? It's very simple. All you need to do is locate the button labelled 'test' on your detector. Push it in and hold. If the smoke detector is working, the alarm will sound, along with any other smoke detectors in your property that are linked to it.

How often should smoke alarms be tested?

Most smoke alarm manufacturers will have different recommendations on how often a smoke alarm should be tested. As a general guide and to be on the safe side, we

recommend that you aim to test it weekly.

If you're likely to forget to check your smoke alarm, you may want to suggest setting up a reminder on your phone. This could be an alarm that goes off every week at a time you're guaranteed to be at home, so you know it's time to test your smoke detector.

Some people, like the elderly, or those with mobility issues, may struggle to test their smoke alarms. If you know someone who needs help, offer to go round and test it for them as often as you can.

How to change smoke alarm battery

Nowadays, most smoke alarms will alert you if the battery needs changing. It'll sound like a little chirping noise and it'll just keep going until you do it.

Having said this, you don't need to wait for the smoke alarm to remind you. It's best to make sure that you change the battery at least once a year (unless you have one of the more expensive ten-year alarms fitted.)

Some people prefer to change their smoke alarm batteries twice a year – just to be on the safe side. A good time to do it is when we set our clocks forward for daylight savings time and then back to standard time. These two events serve as a great reminder.

Most smoke alarm units have a lifespan of around 10 years. You'll need to buy new ones ahead of time to ensure your continued safety.

5 easy steps to change smoke alarm battery:

1. Remove the smoke alarm cover (it should unclip from the base with a slight twisting motion).
2. Take out the old battery from its holder.

3. Replace with a new battery (check manufacturer's instructions to make sure you install a battery of the right voltage).
4. Put the cover back on.
5. Press the 'Test' button to check the new batteries are working (the alarm will sound).

Never take out the batteries of your smoke alarm, without immediately replacing them with new ones. You could forget to put new batteries in and will potentially be putting yourself and those living in your household at risk.



Covid19 is difficult, so along with @CCC @CWPT_NHS, we want to gain an understanding of the mental health & wellbeing support that is needed in your area. Go to <https://bit.ly/37T4pyJ> to fill in a survey to help understand the best support for your needs.





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5.30pm to 7.30pm.

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MENU

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Ktichen

GKtichen2018

Starters

- Seekh Kebab £ 3.45
- Chicken Tikka With Mint Sauce £ 5.95
- Large Mix Grill £ 11.95
- Soya Chilli Tikka (Vegan) £ 5.95
- Peri Peri Chicken Wings £ 4.95
- Buffalo Wings £ 4.95
- FireCracker Wings £ 4.95
- Paneer Tikka With Mint Sauce £ 4.95
- Veg Samosa £ 1.00
- Mixed Pakoda £ 2.95
- Paneer Tikka Shashlik £ 4.95
- Samosa Chaat With Chickpeas curry/curry sauce £ 6.00
- Chicken Chaat £ 7.45
- Aloo Tikki Chat £ 6.45

Note:-

We cook every dish fresh, it would be appreciated if you pre-order the food to avoid waiting period.

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- Chicken Sheesh With Pita Bread £ 6.95
- Grilled Halloumi & Hummus £ 5.95
- Lrg Chicken Sheesh with Peri Rice & Chips £ 8.95
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- Chicken Tikka Wrap With Garlic Naan £ 6.50
- Mix Meat Wrap With Garlic Naan £ 7.50
- Paneer Tikka Wrap With Garlic Naan £ 6.50
- Kheema Wrap With Garlic Naan £ 7.50
- Soya Tikka Wrap With Garlic Naan £ 6.50
- Samosa Wrap With Garlic Naan £ 6.00
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- Madras Chicken Wrap With Garlic Naan £ 7.50

Poppadum

- £ 0.65
- Dips
- Mint & Chilli £ 0.50
- Water £ 1.00

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- Chicken Tikka Masala £ 6.95
- Chicken Madras/Vindaloo £ 6.95
- Chicken Saagwala £ 7.25
- Chicken Mushroom £ 6.95
- Chickpeas Curry £ 6.45
- Paneer Butter Masala £ 6.95
- Chicken Jalfrezi £ 7.25
- House Black Dal £ 6.95
- Masala Soya Chap £ 6.95
- Paneer Kadai £ 6.95
- Bombay Potato Mix £ 6.95
- Chicken Kebab Bhuna £ 7.95

Chef's Special

- House Of Lamb £ 8.99
- Chicken Rogan Josh £ 7.45
- Murgh Chole (Chickpeas) £ 7.45
- Chicken Mughal £ 7.45
- South Indian Prawn Curry £ 8.99
- Daal Ghost (Lamb&Lentils) £ 8.99
- Samosa Tawa Fry £ 6.45

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- Rice £ 2.95
- Large Keema Rice £ 7.95
- Chicken Fried Rice £ 7.45
- Prawn Fried Rice £ 7.95
- Peri Peri Rice £ 3.45
- Plain Naan £ 1.95
- Garlic Coriander Naan £ 2.45
- Masala Naan £ 2.95
- Madras Masala Naan £ 2.95
- Chilli Naan £ 2.45

Contacts

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Bill Tempest Vice Chairman
Anthony Hodges Councillor
Noel Davis Councillor
Michael Hillier Councillor
Margaret Clarke Councillor
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01789 721011

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Liz Marcuse 01789 720796

DEFIBRILLATOR

This is located outside the Poppin shop.

A 999 call giving the location will provide

a code and method of use.

ST JAMES THE GREAT

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01789 751546

revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com

Church Warden Carol Watts

01789 507319

POLICE

Emergency only – 999

Non urgent contact – 101

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PCSO 6040 Fin Moore

PC 1508 Sid Hammond

Shipston Police Station 01789 444670

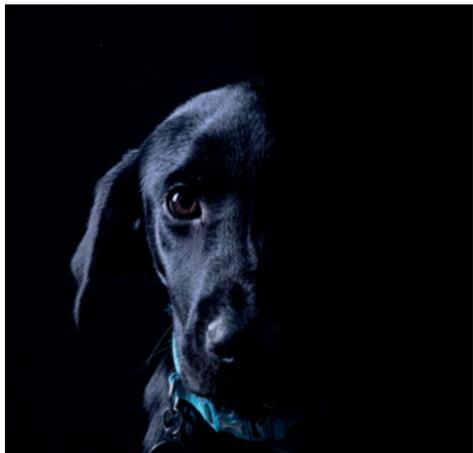
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