

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

June 2021

PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE

Welcome Back Fund

The Parish Council has submitted via Central Bedfordshire Council a bid for a grant from the Government's Welcome Back Fund for:

1. A New bench and planting on Central Bedfordshire Council land near to the shops at Station Road. This will improve the attractiveness of the shopping area and improve pedestrian areas.
2. The creation of a Business Directory to include local halls for hire. The directory will include all businesses trading in the parish and will be printed and delivered to all households.
3. The creation of a Business Club. The Club will allow businesses to meet each other and enable discussions over shared issues and assistance.
4. Business Event to be held in a local hall for businesses to promote themselves to residents. The event will be a drop-in for residents.

We await a positive response.

East West Rail Consultation

The Parish Council has responded to the consultation on East West Rail emphasising the following points:-

- The Parish of Marston Moreteyne remains for now semi-rural & therefore car usage is the preferred form of travel including to those rail destinations for onward commuting. Therefore, to achieve a significant shift from road to rail will require a substantial investment in an Integrated transport system from home to end point.
- More account should be taken of the existing patterns of travel and Reasons why local people use the existing service on the Marston Vale Line rather than conjuring up theoretical patterns of travel which may be generated by EWR. There are already complimentary alternative patterns of travel by bus and car - often faster. Therefore, the need for EWR has not been demonstrated.
- We prefer the retention of the existing rail stopping service as preferable to the alternative as reflective of the needs of existing local Residents.
- There should be the additional 4th option of keeping the Millbrook Level Crossing open. We would also prefer an underpass as both bridge options would have a detrimental visual impact on surrounding land and properties.

Parish Council Meetings

The next full parish council meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd June commencing 7.30pm. The meeting agenda will be available for viewing on the parish council's website at least 3 clear days prior to the meeting. www.marstonmoreteyne-pc.gov.uk

Allotment News for June

With this year's growing season under way at last and the April cold winds and May heavy rains behind us it's time to concentrate on the Allotment plot to get those plants into the ground.



Sowing salad crops directly into the ground should be started now as the ground temperature is perfect for germination. The ground must be cleared of weeds, which would otherwise compete with the new seedlings and be prepared by raking the topsoil into a fine tilth. Lettuce, radishes, beetroot can all be sown directly into the soil but do so sparingly, so you don't have to spend a lot of time thinning out as they grow. It is also a good idea to sow your seeds in batches with a few weeks in between so your crop

doesn't all mature at the same time and you can pick throughout the summer.

Outdoor tomato plants can be planted out now but ensure they are firmly staked as even a moderate breeze will damage them. Before planting remove the side shoots at the base of the plant as you want all of the plant's energy going into the production of the fruiting stems.



With all this planting it is essential you do not forget three important tasks, Weeding, Watering and Feeding. With the sun out weeds will be growing and will soon out compete your plants, so regular hoeing is essential. Watering, the biggest gardening bugbear, little and often is best as alternating between drought and drowning is not good for your plants. Early morning or evening times are best but if you cannot, try to avoid water on the plant leaves as the little water droplets act as magnifying glass causing the sun's rays to burn the leaves. Feeding your growing plants is also essential if you want to achieve healthy plants and a bumper crop, liquid fertilizers are the easiest to apply during your watering, but other fertilizers can be applied around the plants and lightly forked in before watering. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions as over application can be bad for the plants.

David Pryor
Chairman
Marston Moreteyne Allotment Society

MARSTON MORETEYNE **COMMUNITY AWARDS 2021**

Organised by Marston Moreteyne Parish Council

Do you know an individual, group or organisation who have contributed to the community life of Marston Moreteyne and deserve recognition for their efforts, skills, or commitment?

If so please obtain a nomination form from the Parish Clerk
h.trustam@btinternet.com

Full contact details are on the Parish Council website:

www.marstonmoreteyne-pc.gov.uk

There are also two places for residents on the Awards Panel.
Please see contact details above for an application form.

Award Categories



Volunteer



Carer

Young Person (under 18)



Local Group



Local Organisation

Community Facilitator



Local Business



Lifetime achievement

Unveiling of Commemorative Bench in Memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore

I was privileged to attend, with colleague Councillor Carol Carter, the unveiling of a commemorative bench in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore on the 27th May at Millbrook Station. The bench was commissioned by the Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership and as their Press Release states, “The bench is intended to both recognise Captain Tom’s achievement in raising over £32 million for NHS Charities Together and the sacrifice of all those who lost their lives fighting in the First and Second World Wars and subsequent conflicts with a particular focus on the often-forgotten Burma campaign.”

Stephen Sleight, Marston Community Rail Partnership Officer, opened proceedings by saying that it was a great privilege to welcome Hannah Ingram-Moore to Millbrook Station to unveil this stunning bench. Captain Tom was such an inspiration to the whole country, and he was delighted there is a permanent reminder of him at a station he knew well. Stephen thanked the company Roll & Scroll Ltd who designed and made the bench and thanked CRP colleague Andy Buckley for coming up with the idea for the bench and Friends of Millbrook Station for their dedicated voluntary work in transforming the appearance of the station over the last ten years.

The bench had been funded by Marston Vale CRP with a contribution from Marston Moreteyne Parish Council and I was asked to say a few words on behalf of the Council. I said what a great honour it was to be present on behalf of the Marston Moreteyne Parish Council for the unveiling of the bench in the memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore and all those who served their country. When Cllr Carter brought this proposal to the attention of MMPC there was no hesitation on the part of the Council to be involved and it brought a smile to all our faces.

These have been difficult days, however, in the darkness Captain Sir Tom shined a light that cut through all the misery and continued to do so. His example was so typical of his generation and of the British Tommy.

The bench was then unveiled by Hannah Ingram-Moore together with Eric Robinson MBE, County President, Royal British Legion Bedfordshire.

Hannah-Ingram Moore reminded those present of how the fundraising started with her father walking up and down their garden 100 times to mark his forthcoming 100th birthday and to raise funds for the NHS. They had no idea when they started that their expectation of raising funds would be so successfully exceeded. She said that she was incredibly proud to reveal this beautiful memorial bench for her father Captain Sir Tom Moore here at Millbrook Station.

Cllr Hugh Roberts

Chairman, Marston Moreteyne Parish Council

The photographs were taken and provided by Andy Buckley MVCRP and Julie Buckley



Photograph 3 shows (from left to right back row)

Stephen Sleight, Andy Buckley, Cllr Hugh Roberts

(front row)

Hannah Ingram-Moore, Eric Robinson MBE

Parish Councillor Vacancy

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council. Parish councils are the democratic bodies with the closest links to their communities and are the first tier of Local Government.

Marston Moreteyne Parish Council responds to planning applications, maintains play areas and the skate park, undertakes verge and amenity land grass cutting and maintains the war memorial. The work of a Parish Council is often challenging but also rewarding. The Council also works closely with voluntary groups in the community.

If you feel you could contribute to life in the village and are interested in becoming a councillor please contact the Parish Clerk on 01234 743598 or email: h.trustam@btinternet.com for more information and an application form. The deadline for applications is noon on Monday 14th June 2021.



We are hopeful that we will be able to meet once again inside Marston Moreteyne VC School – Forest End site on Sunday June 27th 2021. What a day of rejoicing that will be!

Dear Village,

We do trust that you have kept safe and well and we do want to assure you of our thoughts and prayers as each day in our daily devotions we pray in rotation for a road in the village. This is available for anyone from our Facebook page: valecommunitychurch – as too is a daily evening prayer.

On Whit Sunday – 23rd May, we were able to hold two Open Air services on the school playground. It was lovely to greet one another in person and to worship God - our first time together as a church since a harvest open air service last September.

We are all soooooo looking forward to June 27th!!! This will of course depend on government guidance and the Roadmap, so it will be a case of keeping an eye on our Facebook page and website for notices. You would be most welcome to join us on this or any Sunday 😊 😊

As we walk forward into the future may we all know a real sense of peace, hope and expectancy, as we open up our lives and homes to family and friends.

Our Minister Steve Gaunt, the leadership team and resources are available to you at any time –

Website: www.valecc.org.uk - for all you need to know about Vale Community Church

YouTube channel: valecommunitychurch

For online services – Sundays 10.30am – but these can be accessed at any time.

Facebook: valecommunitychurch

Daily devotional and evening prayer each day.

Stay well, stay safe and may God become special to us all.

Churches Count on Nature 2021

St Mary's Youth Group invites you to join them in our churchyard between 5.00 and 6.00pm on Sunday 13th June. We will be taking part in a national nature count for churches, recording the wildlife we find within St Mary's churchyard.

And why not say this prayer for our planet:



Creator of our common home,
You fill the earth and sea and sky with life.
Forgive us our neglect of your creation
The choking waste of our pollution.
The damage done by careless habits
And our indifference to future generations.
Help us to amend our lives;
To refuse more plastic if we can't reuse it,
To lift our voice for lasting change,
And to live well and gently on the earth
To the glory of your Son, the Living Word
Through whom you made this fragile world.
Amen.

Rt Revd Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford

Amazing Opportunities to raise Funds for our Church

We have been offered a grant where for every £1 we raise we will be given an additional £3 to pay for repairs to our church and tower. This will help enormously as we seek to repair both our church and our ancient tower. Why not use our QR code to donate or leave a cheque in our church collecting tin?



And do you have a **Co-op card**? If so, sign in at <https://www.coop.co.uk> and choose St Mary's as your local cause. We will then automatically raise funds for our floor restoration. We have already made over £800 pounds from this scheme and are eligible until October. Thank you Co-op!

For up to date information about all our services, in church and on line, sign up to our digital newsletter via: linktr.ee/stmarysmarston

If you would like to speak to someone or for more information please contact Revd Kate McFarlane: 07816 790447 or email curate@stmarysmarston.org