

MARLDON PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Wednesday 29th May 2024 at the Village Hall , Marldon. Meeting Commenced a 7.00pm

Present – Cllr Hore chaired the meeting and Karen Gilbert as Clerk took the minutes
In attendance - Cllrs Bailey Clarke , Claridge , Cooke , Roddy and Sharland
CountyCllr Hawkins and Dist Councillor Penfold
39 members of the Public inc Cllr Hore

The Chairman welcomed all present and thanked everyone for attending

1 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Cotton and Morris-Rabbitts

2. Report from the Chairman of Marldon Parish Council

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Good evening and welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting.

I would like to emphasise that this is a SEPARATE meeting from the Parish Council Annual Meeting and is a relatively informal event for the whole community, giving the opportunity for a representative from each Parish group to give a brief explanation of what they do; along with giving Parishioners the chance to say what they like and dislike about the Parish!

I will just add that 27 invites were sent out to our Parish groups and I would like to thank the Village Hall Secretary Viv Arscott for helping me with this.

However, to start things off, just a brief summary of some events within the Parish over the past 12 months, along with our plans for the future.

Many things have been ongoing, such as flash flooding in certain parts of the Parish, along with the disgraceful raw sewage overflow incidents that regularly occur in Compton. I can however report that we now have a working party set up by our local MP involving himself, our County and District Councillors, myself, Compton residents and South West Water who are already carrying out work to help alleviate these problems – they will be monitored closely.

Potholes continue to be a serious issue around our Parish roads. Highways have done a lot of patched repairs in various places, but never seemingly where most needed. We were all as amazed as the rest of you when they decided to resurface Kiln Road! However, I can report that commencing 12th August, a big patching programme is scheduled to take place along the length of Marldon Cross Hill and then Village Road.

Speeding traffic is another big issue within the Parish and again we are working hard to try and reduce that. A group of residents have recently set up a community Speedwatch Group and once trained should very soon be out roadside in various locations with the latest speed gun technology to monitor and hopefully slow traffic down. Add to that the Council's decision to purchase a 'vehicle activated mobile speed awareness sign', thanks to the offer of an assisting grant from our County Councillor. We hope this will all help slow down traffic on our roads.

Dog fouling is another serious issue, but one that we as a Council can do little about, it is up to the Community as a whole to keep a watchful eye out for the few irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up their dog's poo to remind them it is an offence to leave it for others. We have dog poo bins available in all our Parish fields, and we supply free dog poo bags for emergency use only.

Progress will soon be made on the new Parish Memorial Garden, this will be following on from consultations with the Parish Church Council.

Following two annual increases in the Precept and some careful financial monitoring, the Council's reserves have been replenished, thus enabling the Council to consider undertaking some renovation work along with the replacement of Village assets, such as benches - and some potential new projects.

I must just mention two people that the Parish Community have lost during the past 12 months, Gwen Pulle and Trevor Pennington, both were Parish stalwarts in their own right. Sadly there have been others, but too many to mention here. I'm sure we all hold them in our thoughts.

Finally, I would like to thank a few people for their help and support over the past year: our County Councillor Jonathan Hawkins and our District Councillor Sam Penfold, our local Bobby on the beat PC Zoe Carter who has been very quick to respond when needed, my predecessor as Chair Linda Balster plus the fine body of Councillors that we currently have working for the Parish – and also our Parish Clerk Karen for all her hard work, often above and beyond the call of duty, to keep us Councillors on the right track!

Last but not least, a massive thank-you to all the volunteers who do so much to keep the community spirit going in the Parish.

So now you will hopefully hear positive news on many different topics from the various following Parish group speakers.

That will do for me. Thank you.

Cllr Derek Hore

30/5/24

3. Police report - PC 7131 Zoe Carter. Neighbourhood Beat Manager

Marldon Parish remains one of the safest areas to live.

In the year period 29/05/2023 to 29/05/2024 there have been 92 reports made to Devon and Cornwall Police. These encompass a wide range of incidents that Police have attended, including missing people, firearms licensing checks and RTC's, as well as criminal offences.

In comparison, there were 1024 incidents in Totnes Town Parish in the same period.

Below is some of the Community Engagement work undertaken in 2023-2024:

In January 2024 - a Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) funding request was made by PC Zoe Carter for Marldon TRAYE. £500 was awarded by the POCA board to ensure that children attending the youth club can continue to have free snacks and drinks for the 2024-2025 year.

In April 2024 - attended the youth club and were asked some thought-provoking questions by local children and had a game of table tennis.

In June 2023 - held a competition at the school, whereby children drew posters warning motorists of the effects of dangerous parking. The winning posters have been put on vehicles parked inconsiderately at school drop-off and pick-up times.

In December 2023 - Airmen from the Royal Navy attended Marldon Primary School with PC Zoe Carter. Children had a whole-school assembly and discussed road safety, water safety, fire safety and internet safety.

In May 2024 - PC Zoe Carter visited 1st Marldon Scouts/Beavers/Cubs where they discussed how to phone 999, who to ask for help, and had a tour of the police car.

Regular Police Meet & Greet Surgeries around the Marldon Parish area in partnership with district Councillor Sam Penfold.

The Totnes Police Neighbourhood Team officers are Insp Ben Shardlow, PC Zoe Carter, PC Ollie Bell, PC James Bolton, PCSO Kirsty Meakin, PCSO Jason Vasey and PCSO Russ Broadhurst. Totnes Police Neighbourhood Team cover a vast area spanning from Ivybridge across to Paignton, Newton Abbot down to Dartmouth.

PC Zoe Carter and PCSO Kirsty Meakin are the points of contact for Marldon; who also cover Totnes Town, Bridgetown, Follaton, Stoke Gabriel, Littlehempston, Broadhempston, Staverton and Berry Pomeroy.

Totnes Police Neighbourhood Team are committed to helping the Marldon community with any policing needs – please do contact with us – if we do not know it is happening, we cannot help. When communities and Police work together, we can make the area safer for everyone.

3a. Report from County Cllr Jonathan Hawkins -

Cllr Hawkins advised the meeting that he had been Marldon's County Cllr for 7 years and served on South Hams for over 20 years . He paid respect to the late Trevor Pennington whose length of service exceeded 40 year as a Member of South Hams District Council.

He commented on the extra funding to deal with potholes / drainage and new projects and hoped that the interactive sign - to which he had pledged £1000 would assist in speed reduction in the Parish . He further commented that the Parish was very lucky to have a great team of Volunteers under MEG - who work extensively in the Parish to make area a great place in which to live and work

4. Report from District Councillors Penfold - Full report available from the Clerk

It's one year since I was elected Marlon's and Littlehempston's district councillor, and I would like to thank everyone for bearing with me as I learned the job. It's been a privilege to become more

involved in helping our community. I took over from your very capable and long serving Cllr Trevor Pennington. As I work in the villages, I often hear stories of how Trevor helped residents out. I was so sad that he died not long after the election. I was hoping to benefit from his wisdom and knowledge, and I know he left a hole in the village.

Marldon and Compton are very special places. Your community involvement and the number of organisations and events held here are envied over the South Hams. We are often a forgotten corner of the world, but I am in two minds whether that is a good thing or not. Sometimes it is to our benefit. Perhaps it's my job to remind the world we are here when it's useful for us, and to keep quiet when it's not.

I was reminded what a lovely place it was when I was trotting around the villages a few days ago, and there was a stunning rainbow shining over the top of us. I did wonder whose garden had the pot of gold in it.

I've now built relationships with SHDC officers and staff, and other councillors and officials who can help strengthen and serve our community. It helps me to get support and answers to the questions you ask me. I want to thank PC Zoe Carter who I have held many community meetings with and is a great local community police officer.

Your county council Jonathan Hawkins is very supporter of our village and we have worked together well.

And an example how we can all work together is when your county councillor, Jonathan Hawkins, your MP, your chair Derek Hore, and Compton residents have worked to get the attention of South West Water to compile a plan to begin to solve the situation of the sewage and flooding in Compton. The pieces are being worked on, and slowly it's looking like we are coming to some solutions. Only today I met with the Lead Development of SW Water to understand how development around the village may impact on the situation in Compton, and what options we have.

On a council level - just so you know what I do, apart from sitting on the full council at SHDC, I am vice chair of the Licensing committee. I'm also on Overview and Scrutiny committee, which has the different organisations which the council contribute money towards or have an impact in our area come before us. It's the committee's job to challenge them or find out how the council money...your money has been used. If you are interested in the council side of things, I am always happy to listen and learn from you or if you have opinions of things I might be voting on, I am very happy to discuss them with you.

At the village level, my job is mainly anything to do with rubbish and recycling, and planning, and social housing. I have helped residents with issues around planning, and queries about council tax.

Also, one of the most pleasurable sides of my work is to attend the community organisations and events in the village, and where I can, donate some of the locality money to them that councillors are given. In Marldon, I have given money to TRAYE, the preschool, The Mosaic Club and money has been promised to the bowling club and the cricket club. The Allotments have also been granted some donations from the new sustainable and eco locality fund.

Marldon also have a significant pot of 106 funding and I'm looking forward to working with the village to see where that can be best used. It's wonderful to meet more of you as time goes on, and the warmth of your welcome is so helpful. I don't always have the answers or have the remit to help but I do find someone who does, or who I can redirect the questions to.

Lastly, one of the most important things to say is, if there is anything that I have overlooked or that needs following-up, please do let me know. And thank you for your support.

5 . Speakers / reports from Parish organisations

TRAYE

TRAYE was set up to provide youth work in an inclusive and connected way, reaching out to rural parishes and towns in South Devon and working with young people aged 8-19 years old.

TRAYE is a powerful advocate for young people and helps them to have a strong voice in their communities. We promote health, wellbeing, kindness, compassion and respect. This is the heart of what we do and together with young people, we encourage creativity, fun and new opportunities, thereby enabling young people to reach their full potential and create positive changes in their own lives and the world around them.

TRAYE currently runs youth provision in 9 different areas and one of those areas is Marldon.

The Marldon Youth Club has been running for over 9 years and has 103 active members, with 99 of them being from Marldon itself.

Marldon Youth Club is delivered every two weeks on a Friday evening at the Marldon Village Hall and sees around 25 – 35 young people coming to each session. All sessions are free and provide free healthy refreshments.

The Youth Club offers a wide range of positive activities, with a focus on holistic health and wellbeing, including active games, table tennis, arts, crafts, jewellery making, healthy smoothies and cooking meals from scratch. There is also a focus on anti-bullying, diversity, equality, friendship, mental health, staying safe, and emotional literacy.

What is also included in Marldon Youth Club's offer?:

The open access youth club is the first part of our offer, but it does not stop here...

Young people from Marldon are invited to the TRAYE All Area trips in holiday times. Young people have participated in activities such as Quay West, Adrenalin Trampoline Park, Woodlands plus many more.

We also offer local trips for Marldon Youth Club only and the young people have helped to budget and plan for trips to AMF Bowling and The Smokey House for desserts and ice cream.

Young people aged 16+ can take part in our training and volunteering programme which can lead on to paid work within TRAYE. We've had 3 young people from Marldon complete this training programme and they have all found it helpful, particularly for building their CV's, getting new jobs and for some, getting into university.

We also offer additional one to one support for individual young people who are identified as vulnerable or at risk (6 young people from Marldon have accessed this support during 2023).

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility...

Safeguarding is essential as it prevents harm to children and young people, allowing youth services and other organisations to intervene before a crisis point is reached and improve outcomes for those involved.

Keeping young people safe is TRAYE'S biggest priority and we always take any safeguarding concerns seriously and respond in a professional and pro-active way. We have procedures in place to deal with the issues that arise, and all of our staff have the relevant and up to date training required.

All our sessions have an on-call manager allocated, so that Lead Workers feel supported and can escalate their concerns in a timely way.

The last point I would like to make is about:

Consultation Work/ Youth Voice Work:

Through consulting with the young people who regularly attend Marldon Youth Club we have ensured that the Marldon Youth Club continues to offer:

Free access to Marldon Youth Club.

Free food and drink at the sessions.

A safe space to relax and meet friends, with games, quizzes, and educational activities to get involved in.

Help and support around the current issues that young people are facing, particularly regarding their mental health and wellbeing.

Free trips and activities are available for those from low-income households. Trips and activities take place during school holiday times, as well as sports and fitness in our sessions such as Non-Contact Boxing, Yoga, Basketball, Swimming and Rounders.

This is what the young people have said they want and we hope to be able to do this. After all young people are our future and as Roosevelt says, 'We cannot always build the future of our youth, but we can build our youth for the future'.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our supporters - the young people who attend our sessions, their parents and carers, local community members, Zoe from the Police, Marldon Church, The WI and the Marldon Parish Council to name but a few who have all continued to support us over the years. We look forward to providing more wonderful opportunities for Marldon young people to learn, thrive and feel part of their community.

Kerry McCabe
TRAYE Service Manager

Marldon Land trust. I represent Marldon Parish Land Charity, after much deliberation the Trustees wish to make an offer that we hope will take our community on a transformative journey

—one that will enhance the safety, health, and well-being of every individual within our beautiful parish.

Firstly, let me share some exciting news. The Marldon Parish Land Charity has resolved to purchase at least three defibrillators. These life-saving devices will be strategically placed throughout the parish, in locations agreed upon with our Parish Council. Locations will be carefully chosen so that these defibrillators will be there, ready to respond in times of need.

But that's not all. We recognize the importance of swift action during emergencies, and so we're also acquiring up to five bleed packs. These packs contain essential supplies to control bleeding—a crucial resource that can make all the difference when accidents occur.

Now, let's talk about fitness and recreation. We believe that a healthy community is a strong community. With that in mind, we've set aside funds to purchase adult outdoor gym equipment. To be sited in Torfield, where residents of all ages can engage in physical activity surrounded by nature.

Of course, we're not acting unilaterally. We're collaborating closely with the Parish Council and Village Hall Council to ensure that our efforts align with existing initiatives. If deemed appropriate, we'll also update the defibrillator already located at the Village Hall. Safety and synergy—these are our guiding principles.

We have consulted with the Charities Commission, who have provided us with extensive advice and guidance, sanctioning this spending. Their expertise ensures that our actions align with legal and ethical standards, reinforcing our commitment to the community. With their endorsement, we move forward confidently, knowing that our endeavours are well-founded and purposeful.

Lastly, I want to emphasize that this funding has been ring-fenced specifically for these projects within the current financial year. Our commitment extends beyond mere allocation; it's a promise to see these initiatives through to completion. As such, no further applications for funding will be considered until these projects are successfully realized. Together, we forge a path toward a brighter, safer Parish.

In conclusion, this investment isn't just about infrastructure; it's about investing in each other for the benefit of the community as a whole in line with the spirit of our charity. It's about creating a safer, healthier, and more vibrant community—one where everyone benefits.

Julie Hore

1st Marldon Scouts

I am pleased to write the following report giving an update on 1st Marldon Scouts.

As many in the community are aware, 1st Marldon Scouts have had a challenging year, with the group at risk of closure at the end of 2023 and the Scout Hut at Furzewood deemed unsafe for use in January 24.

Following discussions with the Devon Scouts County Team over Christmas, I agreed to join Marldon Scouts and support the group to enable Scouting to continue in Marldon. The challenge was greater than first anticipated as it became clear the group had lost more volunteers than we were initially aware of and the cost of bringing the hut back to a usable standard was deemed not to be economically viable. The decision was made to close the Scout and Explorer sections at this time due to a lack of volunteers to run the sessions.

Despite everything, Scouting at 1st Marldon resumed on 20th January with an activities and awards day and meetings resuming via Zoom the following week for Beavers and Cubs. On 8th February the group resumed face to face Scouting in the Village Hall Community Room, the group are grateful to the Village Hall Committee for accommodating us at short notice.

On 24th April we discovered the Scout Hut had been broken into, with damage to 2 doors and a window. It was clear that access was gained to the lower area which houses old equipment for disposal and may also have been gained to the main hut. Nothing appeared to have been taken and the building has been secured. Following this, Torbay District Scouts have provided us with space to securely store much of our equipment at the district headquarters.

I am happy to report the group is rebuilding, we currently have 15 young people comprising 7 Cubs and 8 Beavers, we have also gained new members to our board of trustees, 2 new regular volunteers, a Young Leader and support for sessions from several parents.

Discussions regarding the future of the Scout Hut are ongoing. Livewest currently own the land, however they have agreed for us to take ownership, we are currently awaiting a proposal from them. We have been in contact with various parties in the community and within Scouts about future plans, with the idea of creating a community hub alongside Marldon Preschool and other organisations a strong possibility.

Whatever the final decision, it is clear that it is going to be a considerable amount of time before the Scout Hut is replaced. Whilst we appreciate the use of the Community Room, its size does not allow for future growth. We have therefore been in discussions with Marlton Primary School who have agreed to rent us their hall, we anticipate meetings will take place there from September.

Having initially joined the group as a Beaver and Cub leader, at the end of April I formally took on the role of Group Lead Volunteer and will continue to support the group going forward.

This term the group have enjoyed learning more about the community with a visit to the church and a visit from PC Zoe Carter. Most recently, from the 24-26 May the group took part in a camp at Watcombe Campsite with groups from Tiverton District. For some, this was their first time away from home, for many in our group it was their first outdoor Scout camp in tents. Despite being a smaller group, we are on track to present more top awards this year than in the last 3 years combined.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported 1st Marlton Scouts this year.

- Parents and children for continuing with the group and joining the group through uncertainty, particularly Chelsea who joined us for the group camp.
- New volunteers Steven and Lizzie, Young Leader Aidan and Skills Instructor Matt for helping us to deliver Scouting.
- The board of Trustees and all their hard work behind the scenes.
- Torbay District Scouts and Devon County Scouts, both have rallied round and done their utmost to support us.
- Julie Jennings from Tiverton District, without whom we would not have been able to provide a camp.
- Rev Jane Frost and PC Zoe Carter who have both worked with our young people towards badge work.
- Cllr Sam Penfold whose donation ensured every child in the group had the opportunity to join our camp last weekend.
- Cllr Jonathan Hawkins who has donated funds for leader uniforms.
- Sam and Jonathan have also supported our discussions regarding the hut.
- Marlton Village Hall for accommodating us.
- Mr Arnold from Marlton Primary School who has arranged for us to use the school hall.
- Hugh Litster of Easy Living Property Services who secured the hut at short notice and his clients who let him have the time off their project to do so.
- Cub Leader Laura for having faith in the group, not only running weekly meetings, but always being there whenever I need to bounce ideas. Without Laura the group would not have continued.

We are actively looking for additional volunteers to enable us to grow the group and provide skills for life to more young people, we would like to reintroduce Scout and Explorer sections and also open a Squirrel Drey for 4-6 year olds. If anyone is interested in getting involved in our group either delivering Scouting to young people, fundraising for a new venue or supporting the group behind the scenes, please get in touch. We are all volunteers so understand people have other responsibilities and commitments, however you would like to help we have a role for you.

1st Marlton Scouts now has a really positive outlook with oodles of energy and enthusiasm. We are all excited to see what the future holds for our group and look forward to sharing our progress along the way.

Local history group

Our history group was formed way back in 2001 by a group of Villagers who felt the Parish needed to keep a record of past and present events that would form part of its history in the future.

For many years all the archives were stored in a garage, but some years ago the Village Hall Council had a special room constructed under the main building to house the ever growing collection of archives.

These archives consist of a vast array of items which include photographs, documents books, a collection of Marlton pottery wares and even the old, original school bell. Perhaps the most famous person to be associated with Marlton is the author Elizabeth Goudge who wrote around 40 books in total, some associated with Marlton and the surrounding area and we have copies of most of them, many being first editions.

At one time the group membership exceeded 150 but as the years have passed by, people have sadly moved away, passed away or decided they can no longer venture out during the evening to meetings.

A vast array of speakers have spoken to our group over the years, ranging from a Tower of London Beefeater to the Torbay Lifeboat coxswain, local celebrities and local historians, a list of all the past ones can be found on the History Group website.

WAM – Wild about Marldon

I am reporting for WAM & The Memorial Garden as they are working closely together.

WAM reflects on a year of contrasts. Despite relentless rain hindering our planned work in Jubilee Meadow, the wildflowers have flourished, gracing us with a spectacular display. As summer approaches, we anticipate even more vibrant blooms. In the past month we have at last been able to get into the meadow to do some tidying and planting.

Our involvement in creating the Memorial Garden has been significant. With the support of MEG we cleared the area and planted over 3000 bulbs, flowers, trees, shrubs, and an abundance of wildflower seeds. The garden's opening ceremony was a heartwarming event, attended by many. On November 11th Vicar Jane Frost bestowed her heartfelt blessing upon the garden, a Poppy wreath was laid and several villagers also laid tributes. We enjoyed lively tunes from The Wonky Donkey Shanty Band, and were serenaded by bagpiper Paul Jackman. Notably, military pipers played the poignant "last post", they looked magnificent in their uniforms.

Councillors Sam Penfold & Jonathan Hawkins joined us for the ceremony, they have provided invaluable support for both MEG & The Memorial Garden.

Since that poignant day, I have had many messages of appreciation and am aware that the garden receives many visitors who just want to take a quiet moment to reflect.

The garden's care rests in capable hands. MEG and WAM join forces, working to nurture the growth and keep it tidy.

With gratitude to all who supported this project, particularly those who donated to the just giving page we look ahead—to years of shared enjoyment of our Memorial Garden.

Finally I would like to say a massive thank you to our lengthsman Simon Birbeck who has cut this grass this year so carefully leaving patches of wildflowers around the village which have been quite breathtaking in their beauty.

MARLDON COMMUNITY COMPOSTING scheme - Jenny Saunders

What is it?

a scheme providing a community service for residents of this parish - Marldon, Compton and Westerland.

The composting site is next door to the Church House Inn.

It is manned by volunteers and is open from 3 to 5pm every Wednesday & Sunday

How does it work?

You bring us your garden chippings, cuttings and prunings and we will turn them into garden compost which you can buy to mulch your shrubs and improve your garden soil.

What you may call 'garden waste' is actually a valuable natural resource. Compost helps create and maintain healthy soil. It adds life in the form of hummus and microbes. It feeds your soil naturally, which in turn feeds up the whole food chain.

How do you get involved?

We offer a range of volunteering opportunities, including taking on a 2hour stint at the site, receiving deliveries from the public; or spending time working the material or shredding the shrubby stuff.

If you prefer to work at home there are tasks such as:

- helping keep the financial books
- researching funding opportunities
- planning fund raising activities like our spring plant sale
- building our social media presence
- and other techy tasks

A wide range of skills and interests are relevant.

The benefits of volunteering will include:-

- satisfaction of putting effort into your community
- You'll make social contacts
- working outside in the fresh air

engaging in mental or physical activity
improving your well being
having a good laugh

Volunteers can give as much or as little time as they like.

So, if you are into the environment, and ecology, or are a gardener, or you are hot on sustainability and want to do something practical to help save our planet, please get involved with Marldon Community Composting.

Revd Jane Frost - Associate Priest

Lovely to be back in Marldon. My name's Revd Jane Frost if you've not come across me as yet. Did have contact with the village & St John Baptist church for 4 years as of 2015 but lived in the Vicarage in Dartington then, working on the Totnes Team family of 9 churches as I do now so I may look familiar to some of you. Came to clergy life late from a career in secondary school English teaching so I may have taught yr children or grandchildren! Most recently been working for 4 years as a Team Vicar in a nearby coastal & rural team of 8 churches.

Some snapshots from the last 12 months here:

June 2024 I was licensed to the Team with my husband Richard [not a Rev but does take services & works with me in aspects of church life]. Lovely to be welcomed in the service by community groups like the cricket club & have the community choir sing. Licensed to be a local Christian priestly presence in this place. Live in the vicarage working 3 days a week as clergy here.

August: 'This is my Story' photographic exhibition in church for a fortnight with related Quiet Morning & Children's & Families seasonal half day craft/activity morning [an innovation for Marldon & repeated at Christmas & Easter & to be continued as a free seasonal offering to the community.

September: Apple Pie Fair – church stall & free children's craft activities.

Autumn: Harvest & Remembrance matters – community potential. I welcomed the opportunity to bless the new village memorial garden & be part of celebrations & rememberings.

Church hosted a reflective day lead by Revd David Runcorn re 'Faith in times of Struggle & Loss' -helped address some of the grief issues which tend to surface in October & November [Church Calendar 'All Souls' & Remembrance Sunday].

***Advent & Christmas seasons** were hugely encouraging. A big Team effort was made in Marldon to 'Follow the Star':

Community Carol Service 147

Christingle 240 inc 90 children

Midnight HC 54 & a dog[!]

Christmas Day 50 inc 3 children

Adult star craft making: 10

Children's & families star craft making morning: 19 children plus parents/carers

We offered a village 'follow the star' trail through Advent up & to 12th Night

* School matters: Collective Worship/Open the Book/lessons/end of term services/class visits [Reception class to come]

* links with pre school when invited & with cubs/beavers/brownies

*Gathered HC is still happening every 6 weeks plus monthly Home Communion. Contact Revd Jane [1 Love Lane Close revjanefrost@gmail.com tel 525171 re pastoral visits, baptisms/weddings/funerals]

* Toddler group & Community Choir links are such a plus [Toddler Group re-birthed in Sept 2024: Wednesdays 9.30-11 in the Community Room. See posters/social media/church website for info]. I really enjoy being part of the Community choir & would encourage you to join!

* Sing with the Spirit is an ongoing hopeful innovation on Vanessa Rowe's part. Tuesday evenings once or twice a month. Come when you can.

*Lunch Club is thriving, thanks to Debbie Cook & the Old Smokey. Once a month on a Thursday.

* House Group is growing: thanks to Hilary Carr for a hospitable space. We meet for 90 minutes or so for conversation/Bible Study/discussion re faith matters & a cuppa.

* Coming up: Songs of Praise & Cream tea on June 23rd at 3pm – community group input welcome. Can I have your email?!

Please remember church is open every day. Prayer tree; tealights. Anyone in the village can call on my time in C of E speak, the local priest has 'the cure of souls' here & however you feel about it, if you see me dog walking, I'll probably be praying for you as Daisy dog & I take the air!

Mosaic Group

Last year we created the Coronation Crown Mosaic to celebrate the crowning of our new monarch King Charles III.

Sited on the wall of our Village Hall. We approached Jon Arnold Head Teacher and invited a group of children to conduct the unveiling as it was felt it should have community involvement being such a significant period in our parish. A small ceremony was held on 2nd May 2023 in time for the Coronation.

Our next project was our Poppy and sign for the Memorial Garden. Whilst not being a replacement for a war memorial (that being the clock on our Parish Church), it was felt the community would benefit from having a place where people could quietly sit and remember loved ones, leaving flowers if they wished. It was a project carried out in conjunction with Wild About Marldon and Marldon Environment Group MEG.

Wild flowers and trees were planted and the signs installed behind the seat and within the newly formed garden in Village Road. A ceremony with a blessing conducted by Rev Jane Frost on Remembrance Day. We were supported by the Wonky Donkey Shanty Group, Paul Jackman - Piper and bugler.

for the Last Post. A huge thank you to everyone who made the projects a special mention must go to Jonathan Hawkins County Councillor and Samantha Penfold Ward Councillor, who have supported us both financially and in attendance at our unveiling ceremonies.

Our other project which we hope our villagers will enjoy will be re-installing a couple of totems in Jubilee Meadow, these are to replace the stolen totems and are designed to add colour when the wild flowers had died back.

Thanks also go to MEG for their support in creating and maintaining the wild areas, where the installations are located around the village.

Derek Hore who coordinated the installation projects supported by Les Hartnell.

Angie Smith - On behalf of Marldon Mosaic Group

Cricket Club

The Cricket Club was formed in 1984 as a small team (No league matches) - approx 15 per year - mostly at home . Most of its income derives from match fees

He encouraged all to come to watch - sitting in the sunshine and relaxing

Village Hall

Nick Glanfield advised that the Hall was a registered charity with 5 Officers . Meetings are held quarterly

The Hall attracts 27 Groups and 19 Village organisations which with regular bookings provide income to cover the general running costs

It was hoped that an online booking system will be in place before too long . Nick also asked for volunteers to come forward to assist in the running of this essential Village asset

Apple pie fair

This years event is to be held on Saturday 7th September 2024 - being the 65th fair . The organisers offer a free stall for Village organisations and asked for volunteers to come forward to ensure that 2024 is a successful Fair

Last year's Fair was a huge success resulting in a profit of £8000 after the deduction of costs at £6000 .

There were problems last year with the traffic control management company and an alternative is currently being sought

MEG

I would like to think that most people here are aware of Marldon Environment Group .. or MEG as they have become affectionally known.

We are a unique Parish insomuch as we have a regular working group of unpaid volunteers who give up a Wednesday morning whenever they can to turn out and work on the numerous Public

rights-of-way within our Parish boundary. Where necessary, they are fully qualified to carry out their work in accordance with the Parish public liability insurance plus Health and Safety requirements.

MEG work under the Devon County P3 scheme, or Parish Paths Partnership, under the watchful eye of Paul McFadden, our Public Rights of Way Warden, and they are funded totally by them. They receive no funding whatsoever from the Parish Council, even though their work benefits all within our Parish. They have a simple agreement which is drawn up between Devon County Council and the recipients of the grant, in our case the Parish Council, setting out how they will work together on improving the rights of way network. Each year before the Parish Council receives the annual grant MEG organises a survey:

This is an assessment of the condition of the rights of way in order to find out what work needs to be done over the coming year.

The survey provides the information necessary for a calculation of the grant payment and is based on the length of rights of way in our parish along with any special projects or repairs that may be deemed necessary.

MEG have been in existence for well over 30 years now, and throughout that period they have been overseen by ROBIN COX. He ensures the Group have ample maintained tools, safety equipment and materials to oversee work thus keeping our Public Rights of Way safe and passable for both Villagers and walkers alike.

He has been the driving force for this dedicated group of MEG volunteers who have tirelessly kept our village's twelve footpaths, one bridleway and nine unclassified roads safe and useable for all, liaising when necessary with our Devon County public rights of way warden. Every Wednesday morning, weather permitting, you will see them out there, picking up litter, tending to footpaths, steps, gates and fencing, and generally making the whole Parish a sight to enjoy, all overseen by Robin.

This year we decided it was time his services were recognised, not just by the Parish, but by South Hams generally. South Hams hold a Community Awards scheme and these are designed to celebrate and shine a deserved light on the individuals, groups and organisations who make an outstanding contribution to our South Hams communities. We nominated Robin for the Community Champion Award and are very proud to be able to announce that he was voted to be a very worthy winner by a judging panel of South Hams District Councillors. He received his award at Follaton House last Thursday before a full South Hams District Council meeting.

His award is here for you to see – along with some contact details if you should decide that you could give up a few hours each week to join MEG out in the fresh air!

6. Questions and remarks from Parishioners -

A Parishioner enquired as to the length of the waiting list for allotments and whether the Parish Council monitors the general condition of the plots

The Chair / Clerk advised that there were 7 on the waiting list and that condition checks are made at regular intervals

The Chairman , Cllr Hore , thanked everyone for attending . He thanked Anthony Mangnall for coming along and regretted the fact , that due to heightened sensitivity with the General Election having been called , he had not been in a position to speak at this meeting

The Chairman thanked all for their contributions and hoped that Parishioners would remain to enjoy the refreshments

The meeting closed at 8.15pm