

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL Parish News - Sarah Goudie, Parish Clerk

Happy New Year!

So, we bid farewell to 2017 and go headlong into 2018 with a full list of meetings, with the Full Council and all sub-committees meeting during the month, a busy start to the New Year. The Parish Council positively encourage residents to attend these meetings, so you can have your say on village issues. We also have a contact form on the website, and use social media platforms Facebook and Twitter.

November saw the highest ever attendance at a Parish Council meeting since I started back in 2012, although there was only one item, but a particularly emotive subject on the Agenda. It shows that the community can come together when they are passionate about something and are able to show their support and have their say. This increased publicity, by using mail drops and social media, has hopefully given people a better understanding of how the Parish Council can support you.

At the start of the meeting, which was to discuss a planning application that needed detailed consideration and proper consultation, Cllr Thomas, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented an informative overview of the Parish Council's role and the functions of the Planning Committee. It was suggested for those that missed this factual overview that a summary should appear in this publication and Cllr Thomas has agreed to put something together for the February edition.

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Schedule 1, paragraph 8), the Parish Council has the power to be notified of planning applications affecting the council's area and to be able to comment as a statutory consultee. They are NOT, however, involved in the decision making process. The Planning Committee meets once a month to discuss the applications within the Parish notified by the Local Planning Authority. It is worth noting that since October 2013 no application submitted that has been outside of the Settlement Policy Boundary has been granted permission, and all cases that went to Appeal have been dismissed. The Parish Council have a good communicative relationship with both the Ward District Councillors who regularly liaise with the LPA on the Parish Council's behalf. More from Cllr Thomas next month.

Local Projects - We are delighted that we have had approval to use some Developer Contribution money to carry out some more improvements throughout the village, which include a timber shelter for the children's play area, some new wooden ladder rung notice boards for the open space areas, some new gates for the Cemetery and replacement picket fence at the War Memorial Green. We are also hoping to carry out some new tree planting to replace some at the Cemetery and the Recreation Ground.

If you have any other ideas for projects or improvements around the village, and are unable to

attend a meeting, then please contact the Parish Office with your proposals or ideas.

Dog Fouling - I had hoped to start my first report of the year moan free, but the subject of dog fouling comes up most days, and the Parish Council are trying all ways to try and get people to pick up after their dogs particularly on footpaths around the village, and at the Recreation Ground. To date sadly, the message just isn't getting through.

Upon investigation it appears that the Parish Council, under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, have the power to make orders for dog control offences (s.55) and issue fixed penalty notices up to £75 (s.59), and after the Open Space Committee meeting this month, to finalise the paperwork to put the Order in place, we hope to be able to enforce this as early as the end of January. This, however, will only work if the perpetrators are 'caught in the act'. We will be organising regular patrols, by Parish Councillors, staff and other volunteers, and once the orders are in place, offenders **will be prosecuted**. Obviously, we can't be everywhere at the same time, so if you see an offence, report it immediately to the Parish Office, or a representative, or photograph it and give details of the offenders, the date, time and where the offence took place. Dog walkers tend to routinely take the same route, so it is likely they will be caught on another occasion if not at the time. Photographs of dog mess on pavements and gardens is not helpful or pleasant, but informative photos of the offence taking place, and the culprit, will be of most use.

Social media has its pitfalls, however the frequent posts about lost dogs, or dogs roaming free on the Recreation Ground are extremely helpful, and if your dog is reported as being 'not under the owners control', you will also be liable to be prosecuted. A tough message for the start of the year, but together we can try and improve this. This is not, sadly, just a Four Marks issue as I have visited many places recently that make Four Marks look spotless, but that is not a reason not to try and improve the situation here.

Recognition of Community Engagement - Hopefully you will have seen the nomination form in both last month and this month's edition, so get nominating.

Until next month, and in the meantime, hopefully 2018 will be a good year for you all.

EAST HANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ingrid Thomas
District Councillor

This month I spent a very interesting afternoon with year six pupils at Four Marks School. They had been on a visit to East Hants offices at Penns Place as part of National Take Over Day which is designed to interest young people in democracy. During the day at Penns Place they had a tour of the building and spoke to officers, asking many questions which I was later told were quite difficult to answer! Well done Year Six. The group

CIVIC BUSINESS

also had a chance to debate a subject of their choice in the council chamber: they chose road safety.

So, on my visit to the school Year Six did a presentation and asked many perceptive questions. We talked about ideas to improve safety near the school, as well as drop offs and parking. I will pass on the many points they made to the officer team concerned with road markings and signage. The officer who came with me to the school will also pass on points to HCC as part of her work on safer routes to school.

We had an interesting discussion on who causes the dangers the children had recognized, with many saying it's the parents and others who drop off their own children. They offered to be ready earlier so that there was less rush involved and a safer journey to school. Many also said the person taking them to school drove too fast and or parked in bad places - food for thought! Are you a culprit? The children said that they would be reminding parents of the importance of driving carefully near school, I can also mention that in the new year there will be regular traffic officers in the area with the power to fine those who are parking in places that contravene Traffic Orders.

The school discussion was very timely as there have been two accidents this week in the villages on the A31. I don't yet have full details of the investigation into the accident at the Shrave. The A31 has been chaos this week as have many of our lanes as people try to find ways round the various road works. Please be patient and careful.

We continue to ask developers daily to clean the mud off the roads. What part of the message is difficult I fail to understand, just keep our roads clear of mud! With freezing weather, we don't need additional hazards. The work on the sewer over Boyneswood bridge is nearing completion but then works to upgrade the sweet water in Redhill and surrounding roads will begin. The sewer down Stoney Lane and Station Approach is also programmed to start soon.

This period in the history of our villages will certainly go down as one of major disruption in many ways. We just look forward to some of the sites being completed, the new residents becoming part of our community and some semblance of order returning.

Let us hope that 2018 brings peace, health and happiness to our friends, neighbours and all in our communities. Wishing you a Happy New Year.

As ever, if I can be of any assistance to you please contact me. 01420 561552 or email: ingrid.thomas@easthants.gov.uk.



Four Marks Parish Council
Community Award
Guidelines for award nomination for 2018

1. The aim of the Four Marks Parish Council Community Award is to publicly recognise endeavour and achievement in the community.

2. The Four Marks Parish Council Community Award is being organised by Four Marks Parish Council.

3. The age criterion for the award is age 12 or above.

4. Criteria. Any of the following in the community:

- outstanding contribution;
- shown a 'professional' attitude and excellent dedication;
- given exceptional commitment;
- how they have benefited the local community

5. Judging Criteria

Please explain in no more than **250 words** how the nominee meets the criteria and include why they deserve to win.

6. Nominations are open to those living and working in the parish of Four Marks.

7. The nominee is a resident within the parish of Four Marks.

8. Entry forms for the 2018 Award should be forwarded to:

Mrs Sarah Goudie

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Unit 32 Lymington Barns, Lymington Bottom Road, Medstead, Hampshire GU34 5EW

Envelopes should be clearly marked 'Community Award'

Or by email: clerk@fourmarkspc.co.uk

Reference: Community Award

Nominations must be received by no later than 28th February 2018.

9. The winner will be decided by a Judging Panel consisting of Four Marks Councillors.

10. The finalists will be informed by letter with detail of the Award Ceremony.

11. The award will be presented on the evening of Annual Parish Meeting **Wednesday 11th April 2018 at The Four Marks Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.**

The Nomination form is on page 31.

Parish Council Meetings



Wednesday 3rd January
7:30pm Planning Committee
8:30pm Open Space Committee
Village Hall

Wednesday 10th January
7:30pm Finance and General
Purposes meeting
Parish Office

Wednesday 17th January
7:30pm Full Council meeting
Village Hall

For Agendas and Minutes please go to the website (or contact the Clerk - 01420 768284)

www.fourmarksvillage.co.uk

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Damian Hinds, MP for East Hampshire

The prospect of a new year often brings reflection, and it's right that we look back over the year that has gone, not just on the speed with which it has passed, but also on key moments and events that have shaped it.

We will all have personal highlights – time with family and friends, a holiday away from regular life, goals achieved either at home or at work, or possibly the loss of someone close. This is the steady ebb and flow of life, which can be both reassuring and challenging.

As I look back over 2017, there are some key events that colour my view of the last twelve months. The monstrous terrorist attacks in London, Manchester and other places around the world, the catastrophic fire at Grenfell Tower, the impact of June's General Election, the on-going Brexit negotiations, and major humanitarian disasters that continue to fill our screens and hearts with sadness.

But as hard as these things can be, it is our reaction to these events that matters. What we do to prevent those who mean us harm from planning and perpetrating crimes, how we help those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire and action we take to prevent this happening again, the help and support we give to nations and communities across the globe.

And with the disappointing election result, it's even more critical that we work hard to deliver the economic growth and security that we know will impact all of our futures, and stay focused on developing the best possible post-Brexit relationship with our European friends and neighbours.

And the government continues to do just that – 2017 has seen record-breaking employment numbers as the strength of our economy continues to create opportunities, record amounts of investment going into public services such as the NHS and schools, welfare reforms that continue to support those most in need and to make sure that work always pays, major infrastructure projects underway, and there is a new commitment to build the houses we need.

And we're right to be optimistic about our future. The UK is home to some of the best talent and educational institutions, we have high tech industries based here that are growing and leading the world, we have home-grown entrepreneurs that are creating exciting new products and markets across the globe, and we have a spirit that is outward looking and positive.

And this spirit is very much part of life here in East Hampshire. As we look ahead to next year, I would like to pay tribute to the thousands of small businesses across the area that are the economic and social life-blood of our local communities.

From florists to framers, brewers to butchers, plumbers to pet groomers, coach drivers to cabinet makers, stove stockists to tree surgeons – the list is

endless as is the contribution they make to our lives, so three cheers to them all! May I wish everyone a very happy start to 2018.

If you would like to contact Damian, please send him an email at damian.hinds.mp@parliament.uk or call his office on 0207 219 7057. More information is available at www.damianhinds.com

Was a motorbike or scooter on your Christmas list?

The law. If you were lucky enough to get a new machine, do you know the law? Motorbikes, mini-motos and quad bikes, if ridden recklessly and illegally are not only a public nuisance but they endanger lives. It's important to know the law around riding a motorbike so you don't end up with a criminal record or points on your licence, not to mention the potential to seriously hurt yourself, or someone else.

You can only ride a go-ped, mini moto, quad bike or motorbike legally on the road if you have a full driving licence and compulsory basic training (CBT). However a provisional licence and CBT is sufficient to ride a motorbike or scooter up to 125cc with L-plates. You also need a minimum of third party insurance cover, registration and tax as well as an approved protective helmet.

Keep It Safe. A lot of the motorbikes being ridden have been stolen and are being ridden with no licence, insurance or number plate. Scooters and mopeds are particularly easy to steal if they are not parked securely so it's worth taking extra precautions. Buy a decent lock and always lock your bike to something secure. Even at home make sure it's anchored and if possible put in a locked garage.

Despite the cost it's worth having an immobiliser and alarm fitted. Finally never leave anything, including your helmet, on display. There is a useful 8 page leaflet available for download called [Motorbike moped minimoto and quadbikes - Know the law at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/news/general/operation-torque-if-you-buy-motorbike-christmas-make-sure-you-know-law-and-know-how-store/>](https://www.hampshire.police.uk/news/general/operation-torque-if-you-buy-motorbike-christmas-make-sure-you-know-law-and-know-how-store/)

Winter Driving

With the possibility of snow this winter and the certainty of foul weather be prepared when you set out on a journey. Useful items to have in the car at this time of year are some extra warm clothes or a car blanket, emergency rations (in case you get stranded), de-icing spray, shovel, wellington boots, torch, first aid kit and a hazard warning triangle. Drive with extra care.

Black ice is a hidden danger in winter as there is often little or no advance warning of its presence and is a major challenge for all drivers, however experienced. It forms a clear sheet of ice with the tarmac showing through and therefore looks just like the rest of the road. So if you can't see it the only way to guard against it is to be aware of the weather conditions when it might occur. It tends to form in the early morning or

MOTORBIKES

- Always lock your bike and set the alarm if it has one.
- Try to use a designated motorcycle parking place with a stand and security loop.
- When leaving your bike for some time, try to lock it to something secure. At home, you can fit special attachments to lock your bike to.
- Don't leave items such as helmets or other possessions with your bike.



SCOOTERS AND MOPEDS

- Scooters and mopeds are becoming increasingly popular, both with commuters and thieves. These types of vehicle are nearly four times more likely to be stolen than motorbikes. Scooters and mopeds are light and easy to steal if they're not parked securely, so it's worth taking extra precautions.
- Park in safe areas where there are lots of passers-by and onlookers who will see if anyone is tampering with your scooter.
- Never leave anything, including your helmet, unsecured and on display.
- Have an alarm and immobiliser fitted — it is almost certainly worth the investment.



 www.hampshire.police.uk
Deaf? Non-emergency text
07781 480999
For crime and community information
www.hampshirealert.co.uk



evening as a glaze on surfaces after light freezing rain or when snow, water, or ice melts and refreezes. It can be more prevalent on tree lined routes or on little used roads. When there is a risk of black ice drive slowly with dipped headlights, even in the day as it may be possible to spot the extra reflection from the ice and get a little advance warning of trouble ahead. If driving behind other vehicles leave extra space and watch to see if cars in front suddenly swerve for no apparent reason. If you do hit black ice remain calm and avoid overreacting. The general rule is to do as little as possible and allow the car to pass over the ice. Resist the temptation to brake, and try to keep the steering wheel straight. The idea is to slide over the ice in the direction the steering wheel is facing as usually black ice is in patches rather than continuous.

If you feel the back end of your car sliding left or right, make a very gentle turn of the steering wheel in the same direction. If you try to struggle against it by steering in the opposite direction, you risk skidding or spinning out. Take your foot off the accelerator and as soon as you sense that tyres are gripping again apply the brakes gently in a pumping action unless ABS is fitted, in which case the system will do this automatically. Once the car is under control again drive slowly in a lower gear as that gives better control.

Fly Tipping - A New Resource

Hampshire County Council has appointed a new Fly-Tipping Partnership and Project Officer who will be tackling the issue through partnership collaboration, enforcement, reporting and education. Gareth Roberts spent nearly seven years at Hampshire Constabulary as a community beat officer and will be utilising his knowledge and skills of partnership working, intelligence gathering and the law to ensure fly-tipping is reduced across Hampshire.

This is the first time the County Council has put in place a dedicated resource to work exclusively with partners such as district authorities, the Rural Crime Partnership, the Environment Agency, The National Farmers' Union, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Country Land and Business Association, Highways England and the police to reduce fly-tipping through raising awareness, encouraging reporting and helping to increase prosecutions. Gareth will also be working closely with the County Council's Trading Standards team to crack down on bogus waste disposal companies and rogue traders who are dumping waste on public and private land.

Police Neighbourhood Team

Our PCSO for Four Marks & Medstead is Matthew Sheppard who, with PC Kelly, are our neighbourhood team to contact for advice or to report a problem.

In an emergency always ring 999

Call 101 for general enquiries, non-emergency anti-social behaviour, community safety advice, information and action or to report a crime when it is not an emergency. Also call this number to contact PC Kelly or PCSO Sheppard or email them at peter.kelly@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or matthew.sheppard@hampshire.pnn.police.uk as appropriate.

Calls cost a flat rate of 15p.

Compiled by Dennis Bignell

Buy **FOUR MARKS NEWS** at

Arrows Off Licence, Cato Computers, Cedar Veterinary Group Clinic, Church of the Good Shepherd, Clementines, Co-operative Store at The Windmill, First Impression, Four Marks Golf Club, Four Marks Pharmacy, Four Marks School, Garthowen Garden Centre, Norman Read, R G Rivers, The Naked Grape, and Village Flowers.

Or order your copy from **Handy Stores** and have it delivered with your newspapers.

On Jan 10th 1918 The House of Lords gave its approval to the Representation of the People Bill, which gave women over the age of 30 the right to vote.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

WATERCRESS MEDICAL GROUP
Louise Webb, Deputy Practice Manager
www.watercressmedical.co.uk

Surgery Opening Times
Monday 8am–6:30pm; Tuesday – Friday 7am–6:30pm
pre-booked appointments only
01420 562922; Fax: 01420 562923; Out of Hours 111.

Facebook - The surgery now has a Facebook page which gives all the latest news and information.

Staff Vacancies - We are looking to recruit a Receptionist and a fully trained Dispenser. Anyone expressing an interest in this post should contact Louise Webb at the surgery.

The A31 Wellbeing Hub. - The A31 Community Wellbeing Hub is an initiative by 5 General Practice Surgeries, all linked by the A31 (hence the title), to enable their patient communities access to a space to interact with a variety of organisations that can assist in providing specialist support or useful information across a wide range of topics. Based at Chawton Park Surgery, The Hub will be run on a drop in basis where people can find out more or share experiences or knowledge in a relaxed and social atmosphere. Please check our website and Facebook page for details of each meeting.

Traffic from New Development - Now that the new housing development is almost complete, there is an increasing amount of traffic approaching the surgery car park from the direction of the development – we would ask all car park users to take extra care.

Appropriate Appointment Protocol - Active Signposting - Our Receptionists have recently completed further extensive training on booking the most appropriate appointment for our patient's needs. To ensure this is done correctly, they will need to ask a couple of questions when first speaking to patients. Please rest assured, all information given to our staff remains confidential at all times.

Zero Tolerance Policy - Sadly, there has been a general increase recently of aggressive and abusive behaviour directed towards our staff. Any behaviour, verbal or physical, which causes staff to feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or threatened, is totally unacceptable. In the event of any instances of the above behaviour the Police may be called and the patient may immediately be deregistered from this practice. Please note that this policy includes all cases of verbal abuse, both face to face and on the telephone.

Charity Book Case - Our charity book case is very popular with our patients and is a great success in terms of fundraising. Last months we raised money for Crisis for Christmas. In January our nominated charity is the local Food Bank service.

Patient Group - Our patient group now have a new dedicated web page on the surgery website. All upcoming events and talks are published online.

Dispensary - A reminder that our Dispensary opening hours have now changed to: 8.30am to 12 midday & 3pm to 6pm.

Repeat Medication Orders - Please note, under NHS guidelines, we are now only able to dispense one month's supply of medication per order.



ROTARY NOTES

Roy Roberts



Raising the Roof - Literally!

Rotary members in Four Marks and Medstead have launched a world-wide crowdfunding campaign to save a local riding centre for the disabled.

The centre – Broadlands Riding for the Disabled – has helped thousands of children and adults in the past 60 years at its base in Medstead, but is now under threat. The roof of the riding hall was built originally with an asbestos roof, but has deteriorated. It now leaks, is potentially dangerous and has been condemned.

Unless Broadlands is able to raise £185,000 in the next few months for a new roof, the centre will not be able to continue its work for the disabled. Local Rotary members have now launched the crowdfunding campaign with the support of the Rotary organisation throughout Britain and Ireland, and the campaign is close to reaching its initial campaign target after only a few days, with more than seventy donor-supporters signed up in the first week.

Four Marks and Medstead Rotary President Sally Duncan said the centre was a vital resource for disabled children and adults throughout Hampshire. She said, "Using crowdfunding in this way is a new development for Rotary, and we are optimistic that this appeal to save Broadlands will reach a large number of potential donors through social media and in other ways."

Broadlands was established in 1955 and was one of the first disabled riding centres in the country, and was involved in setting up the national Riding for the Disabled Association. Since then it has provided rides for 4,000 disabled children and adults from all parts of Hampshire, and now provides more than 900 rides each year.



The centre has eight specially-trained ponies and six specialist instructors, with 50 volunteers assisting. The centre works with disabled children with Downs Syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and autism.

One typical rider is ten-year-old Tom, who has Duchenne

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

He is a remarkable young boy who is full of personality, but faces an uncertain future. For Tom, the riding is essential to maintain his quality of life for as long as possible. Riding helps maintain his stability, balance and strength. He would like to be a soccer star, but riding at Broadlands gives him an opportunity to compete with others. Tom has enjoyed his riding lessons for the past four years, but that is now under threat.

Donations to save Broadlands can be made at <https://goto.gg/30864>

More information about Broadlands at www.broadlandsgroupprda.org/uk

Awards for Volunteers

The work of volunteers from Four Marks and Medstead Rotary was recognised at a ceremony organised by Community First and East Hampshire District Council in Petersfield. The awards celebrated the dedication and enthusiasm of volunteers who make a difference to the lives of local residents.



Four Marks and Medstead Rotary won the Small Team of the Year Award for its support for the Young Carers project at the King's Arms in Petersfield. The club has raised money to send a young carer on holiday, and also sponsored a trip to Staunton

Country Park for the junior group of carers. Five volunteer drivers from Rotary provide transport for young carers from the Alton area to Young Carers Club sessions in Petersfield, and get involved in the evening sessions.



A Special Commendation award was presented to Rotary member Lisa Hillan, a former President of the Four Marks and Medstead Club, for her work as trustee of the Alton Beer Festival, which raises funds for local charities, for her work as chair of the governors of Eggar's School, Alton, and for her role organising Rotary youth competitions for local schools.

Bigger Shed Needed

Alton Men's Shed is a victim of its own success and needs a bigger shed on a new site, according to its chairman, Ian Scott. He told a meeting of Four Marks and Medstead Rotary that the Men's Shed movement had its origins in Australia and came to the UK within the last ten years. He said there are now more than



three hundred Men's Sheds in the UK, including the Alton Men's Shed which was founded two years ago.

Initially, there were twenty men involved in the Alton Shed, but numbers have tripled in two years. The present shed is only big enough for four people to work in at one time, so Mr Scott said the need for new premises is pressing.

He said the concept was to create a space for people to meet to share skills and learn new ones – he added that anyone over 18, both men and women, was welcome to become involved in the Shed.

Projects that Alton members have worked on include repairs to bus shelters, park benches and public notice boards, as well as producing bird feeders and tidying gardens for elderly and disabled residents.

Back from Tanzania



A local girl, Emily Pascoe from Chawton, has reported back to Rotary members on the results of a Scouting working expedition to Tanzania. Emily was one of a team who worked on a number of building projects to create a Scout Campsite in Tanzania for a National Centenary Jamboree. She was involved in building a bridge, a shower block, a kitchen and a dining shelter, and other teams were involved in building work on a hospital and a school, as well as fitting solar panels to the buildings. Emily's expedition was supported by Four Marks and Medstead Rotary.

Aid to Bangladesh

Rotary members in Four Marks and Medstead have contributed to a worldwide effort to provide aid to many thousands of Rohingya refugees who have fled to Bangladesh to avoid persecution. Hundreds of Shelterboxes for temporary accommodation and Aquaboxes have been shipped to the crisis area. Local Rotary members sponsored two Aquaboxes, which provide clean filtered water supplies to an entire community.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

FOUR MARKS OVER 60S LUNCH CLUB

The Four Marks Over 60s Lunch Club Christmas Lunch was held on 13th December at the Village Hall. The event was a special



one this year as it was the final lunch organised by Audrey McMillan and Michelle Kuhn together with their willing helpers. Audrey and Michelle have voluntarily organised the twice monthly Lunch Club for many years and all the members were very sorry to hear that they are hanging up their aprons.

Revd. Howard Wright was on hand to act as MC and before saying grace Howard expressed grateful thanks from the community to Audrey and Michelle for their unstinting hard work in running the Lunch Club for so many years.



Before the delicious buffet was served a presentation of gifts was made to Audrey, Michelle and their helpers on behalf of the members of the club.

Thankfully the Lunch Club will be continuing to meet during 2018 as Morven Hart and Jane Ward will be taking over the reins in the New Year.

FOUR MARKS LUNCH CLUB

Morven Hart & Jane Ward

The Club meets in the Village Hall at 1pm. on
Wednesday 10th January

To reserve your place, or if you are a regular and know you cannot attend, it is important that you call Morven 01420 562448 or Jane 01420 769435 in advance or 01420 562343 (Village Hall) on the day.
Absences without notice leads to waste.

FOUR MARKS & ROPLEY SCOUT GROUP



Melissa Smith - Group Scout Leader

Musings of a Group Scout Leader

Can you believe it's the New Year again? What a busy year 2017 was at Four Marks & Ropley Scout Group. With 2 Beaver colonies, 2 Cub packs, 2 Scout troops and a thriving Explorer group we offer a vast range of Scouting activities to young people in the Four Marks & Ropley area.

As the new term starts I thought it would be a good opportunity to take the time to say a huge Thank You to all the leaders and everyone else who supports the Group without whom none of this would be possible. They put in a huge amount of their own time and effort without getting paid!!!

So, from me and all the children who get so much out of their time in Scouting: **THANK YOU**. Watch out for more news of what the Group's getting up to this year and please like our Facebook Group - Four Marks Scouts - to see what we're doing.

If you'd like to join our team and keep Scouting alive in Four Marks & Ropley I'd love to hear from you. I promise you, you've never had an experience like it!!!

Wishing everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Melissa Smith, Group Scout Leader

Four Marks & Ropley Scout Group

07875 06068: fourmarksscoutgroup@gmail.com

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions run from March to February and provide an easy way to get your copy of Four Marks News without having to fumble for 50p when you see it on sale. Instead we issue a sheet of vouchers for the year, which are easy to carry in your purse or wallet. These can be exchanged at any of the shops listed on page 9 and by charging £5.50 we give you a free month. WI members are reminded that you need to complete and return the form as Pat Horrix, Circulation Manager, does not attend the afternoon WI. **A good New Year's resolution is to complete the form and send it in with your money before you forget!**

Having subscribers helps us as we know we have a core readership when setting the number of copies to order from the printer. Each copy costs at least £2 to have printed, so getting the numbers right is important. It also reduces the amount of cash shop-keepers collect from sales and the circulation manager must handle.

For those who live away, or who find it easier to have the magazine delivered on or before publication day we offer a postal service. The subscription is the same, but there is a charge for postage and stationery. In total the charge is £24, which seems a lot, but the magazine often tips the scales over 250 grams.