

CIVIC BUSINESS

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

Happy New Year to all Clerk's report and Four Marks News readers.

The new Parish Office is now fully operational in the Benians Pavilion, and will be open every day, except Fridays, which will be appointment only. The initial hiccup with the lack of telephone and internet facility appears to have been resolved.

The move to the Recreation Ground has already proved to be beneficial, as I have already had a number of people just popping their heads in with queries, it is also great to see how well our facilities are used.

Although the firework 'season' has now passed, there is a document now available on the website that highlights rules, regulations and guidance on fireworks and bonfires. This seems to be one of the most emotive subject that graces the social media sites.

Pavement parking is another issue that causes a good deal of comment. It is not illegal or unlawful to park on a pavement, well in Hampshire anyway. However, it is unlawful to block access for pedestrians. So, if you have no other option, and have no option but to park partially on the pavement, then please out of consideration and common courtesy, make sure there is enough space for a pedestrian with a pushchair or a wheelchair user.

One of our projects for 2019's is to improve the signage and accessibility of the footpath network within Four Marks. Whilst we have a footpath officer, it is not possible to regularly monitor all the footpaths, so if you come across and issue, with an obstruction, overgrowth or a regular muddy spot that could do with some hard core or chippings to alleviate the issue, then please let me know, either by telephone, email or message on social media. We have a Parish Lengthsman that visits the village 5 times a year, as part of a scheme run by Hampshire County Council, and I like to give him plenty to do. On his last visit they refurbished the bench outside the village hall, but they can be given other tasks, like cleaning road signs, and other open space clearance work.

Another 2019 project will be essential maintenance to Swelling Hill Pond and we are currently investigating grant funding to ensure that this is carried out as professionally and in the most environmentally friendly way.

There has been a noticeable increase again in dog fouling again, very likely to do with the early dark evenings. The Parish Council will again be looking at ways to try and combat this problem and are hoping to enlist the assistance of East Hampshire District Council to patrol the area and start issuing fines to perpetrators.

As always, if you have any issues, then please contact me, either by telephone, email, via the website or social media.

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL Janet Foster - Chairman

During 2018 the Parish Council has been focussing on the needs of our growing community and the facilities that are available to us all. It culminated in the Community Buildings Consultation giving all the chance to have your say and choose an option. The Parish Council are now working and will continue to work towards what the community has chosen.

There is another opportunity for Four Marks residents to have a say in May, when a new Parish Council has to be elected. There are 10 councillor positions so if you or someone you know wishes to stand then the forms and notices will be on the website and notice boards around the village in April. If you want to know what is involved then please contact our Parish Clerk.

2018 was great year for awards when Four Marks won four in the Fuller's Village of the Year competition. I thought that the best one was for most inspiring place - as well as for best community initiative, winner for best open spaces and runner up of village of the year. Quite rightly the Parish Council is proud of receiving these awards because it has worked hard to make Four Marks the place it is and this was recognised by the judges.

As Chairman I have enjoyed working with our councillors and others in our community that have also given their time and skills freely. It will again be a pleasure to give the Four Marks Parish Council Community Award at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 10th April. Please think of who you could nominate.

We can all share our skills for the benefit of others in both Four Marks and Medstead by continuing to work collaboratively for our futures to make our communities a better place to live.

I would like to wish all households a Happy New Year.

EAST HANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ingrid Thomas
District Councillor

Happy New Year. May this year bring good health and happiness to you all.

I would like to thank all those volunteers who help make life better for those who need help in our community and would like to encourage others to get involved. It's a great way to meet new people and make new friends, can take a small amount of time or as much as you have available.

The Lunch Club provides an excellent service for our community and this year I was asked to collect together prizes from local businesses. We have some extremely generous local business. I would like to thank the ladies from LOAF who gave money from

their tips in order to offer a prize, The NAKED GRAPE for a wine prize, The COOP for a large box of chocolate, ARROWS OFF LICENSE for wine, CATKIN and PUSSYWILLOW for a lovely plant, FIRST IMPRESSION for a voucher, and GARTHOWEN for a beautiful Amaryllis. Thank you all and I hope the recipients enjoy the generosity shown.

I have spent my grant money now on projects around the two villages but know that Deborah has money left to spend on any more projects that would benefit our community. Over the 4 years we have been your District Councillors we have had a total of £36000 to spend on projects in the two villages. We have contributed to children's play areas, adult gym equipment, ponds, Street and Speedwatch, school projects, Holiday at Home, the War Memorial, new clocks and many more things which I hope have enhanced our community.

I very much enjoyed being with the year 6 from Four Marks School at the East Hants take over day, designed to get children thinking about democracy and how local government works. There was an extremely energetic debate on whether Four Marks should have a bypass which brought out some very good points. Their final decision was no to a bypass.

The major happening with East Hants this year is that the draft of the Local Plan is now published which is available to download from East Hants web site. The consultation for this draft is from 5th February until 19th March 2019. It's a very large document (about 380 pages) because it is a complete review of the Local Plan so beware before you press print from your computer!

A huge amount of work has gone into producing this Local Plan review, many consultants have been employed to do the research work and the policy team at East Hants have worked extremely hard and quickly to produce the plan. This is to ensure we do not have a period without an up to date plan, after the government changed to rules and declared that a review had to be undertaken every five years.

I have been very involved in the Local Plan Working Group which has reviewed every policy as it was written and checked details of the plan as it emerged. There were a great many difficult decisions. Not everything in the Local Plan will please everyone but I have done my absolute best to ensure that our community is not affected in the same way as it has been in the past. We need a period of stability to absorb our new community members from all the new building that has taken place over the last couple of years.

I was asked by both Parish Councils and the Neighbourhood Plan steering group to try to ensure we had no allocated sites until 2028. This I have managed to do. Others in the working group agreed, as did officers, that we have had too much development too quickly. We do have an allocated

site but with the new phasing rules introduced by the government it will not be developed until 2032. This site is off Winchester Road adjacent to Barn Lane. The long timescale should enable us to ensure that the site has a good development brief and provides infrastructure before the houses. This is our only allocated site.

In this plan sites are allocated for all types of development; housing, employment, gypsies and travellers and older people. Land is offered by landowners for different purposes and considered carefully before the sites are allocated. A huge amount of land was offered for housing, much less for employment and very little for gypsies and travellers. So, there was plenty of choice about which sites to choose to make up the required numbers for housing sites and a choice for employment land. Very little land was offered for gypsies and travellers so there was little choice of sites. This has led to three small gypsy and traveller sites being included in the plan in Four Marks. These are all extensions of existing sites. 5 additional pitches at Janelands, Willis Lane, 4 additional pitches at Briars Lodge, Willis Lane and 2 pitches in Alton Lane.

There are no further allocations in the plan for our villages, but I should point out this now goes to consultation and there may be changes as a result of that consultation. Following any changes made there will be a further period of consultation before the Local Plan review is examined by The Planning Inspectorate and adopted.

There are lots of policies that have been brought up to date and some new ones. The plan covers Homes and Communities, Economy, Natural and Built Environment and Infrastructure. A simple guide has been produced for those who do not want to read all 380 pages. This is also available to download on East Hants web site.

I am very happy to attend meetings of groups of local residents to go through and explain or just answer questions on any aspect of the draft local plan.

2019 is the year of the local elections to District Council which happen in May so if there is anything you would like me to help you with in the first half of the year please ask. After May we will have three district councillors as the Ward joins with Chawton, so you will get three votes to use if you have registered to vote. Please check that you are on the electoral role, forms have been sent out, but new residents often don't realise this is something they need to do.

If I can be of help in any way or to let me know your opinions about issues that affect our villages that I may be able to assist with please contact me. 01420 561552 or email: ingrid.thomas@easthants.gov.uk.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year

Ingrid Thomas

East Hampshire District Ward Councillor for Four Marks and Medstead

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

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

Surgery Opening Times
Monday to Friday 8am - 6:30pm
(Tuesday to Friday 7am - 8am **pre-booked appointments only**)

Dispensary Opening Times
Monday to Friday 8:30 am - midday & 3pm - 6:30pm
01420 562922; Fax: 01420 562923; Out of Hours 111.

Evening and Weekend Appointments - Mid-Hampshire Healthcare, a GP Federation delivering multiple clinical services across the mid-Hampshire location covering 18 GP Practices and 213,000 patients now operate 2 x GP Access hubs to give patients additional access to Primary Care Services specialist on evenings and weekends. This service was commissioned by West Hampshire CCG.

Our GP Access Hubs are located in Andover and Winchester and provide Pre-Bookable and Same Day appointments:

Opening hours

- 5pm to 8pm Monday to Friday
- 8am to 4pm Saturday (to 12pm Andover)
- 8am to 12pm Sunday

Locations

- Andover War Memorial Hospital, Andover, SP10 3LB (next door to MIU)
- Badger Farm Surgery, Winchester, SO22 4QB (next door to Sainsburys)

Please visit our website or contact Reception for further information.

Charity Bookcase - During December we have been raising funds for Save the Children Fund. During January, we will be raising funds for Cancer Research UK - using their Dryathlon - no alcohol for January - campaign.

Care Cars - Just a reminder for all patients located in Four Marks and Medstead that care cars are available to take people to non-emergency medical appointments at hospitals, doctors and dentists, physio etc. When calling the number, the duty coordinator will take a message and arrange a driver for the patient's appointment and then ring them back with details.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer driver then please call the same number: 01420 564435. Or visit the following websites:

www.fourmarkscare.org.uk or
info@fourmarkscare.org.uk.

Patients helping Patients

Have you had your flu jab?

I am collecting patients' views about their experience with flu jabs, whether at the Surgery or at a pharmacy. Please email me at mansfieldparkppg@btinternet.com or place a note in the red box on the window sill in the Reception area.

GPs issued 1.1 billion prescription items at a cost of £9.2 billion in 2015/16. The vast majority were appropriate but many were for medicines, products or treatments



THE PATIENT GROUP

MANSFIELD PARK SURGERY, MEDSTEAD

that do not require a prescription and can be purchased over the counter from pharmacies and other retailers in some cases at a much lower cost than the price paid by the NHS. The NHS has compiled a list of those medications which it proposes will not routinely be prescribed except under specific clinical conditions. Further details at www.england.nhs.uk/2017/11/prescription

Chris King-Smith, Chair, Mansfield Park Patient Group

BOUNDARIES SURGERY
Kevin Evans - Practice Manager
www.boundaries-surgery.com

01420 562153

Surgery Opening Times
Monday to Friday 8am-6:30pm

For Out-of-Hours non-emergencies please call 111. This number is the first contact point for Hantsdoc, who provide our Out-of-Hours service and are based at the North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke. In an extreme emergency do not hesitate to call 999.

• **PocketMedic** ... has worked with NHS doctors, nurses and patients to create a series of short films to help you to manage your health. You can watch these films as many times as you like and learn from other patients and health care professionals about your condition. The following films are available for you to watch:

Pre-Diabetes - www.medic.video/snh1-pre

Type 1 Diabetes - www.medic.video/snh1-type1

Type 2 Diabetes - www.medic.video/snh1-type2

Gestational Diabetes - www.medic.video/snh1-gest

COPD - www.medic.video/snh1-copd

Exercise with Lung Disease - www.medic.video/snh1-exercise

Chronic Pain - www.medic.video/snh1-pain

Wellbeing - www.medic.video/snh1-well

Life after Cancer - www.medic.video/snh1-cancer

Heart Failure - www.medic.video/snh1-heart

We hope you will find these films helpful.

• **Additional GP and Nurse appointments**...in collaboration with three other surgeries along the A31 (Bentley Village, Chawton Park and The Wilson Practice) we can offer GP and Nurse appointments between 18:30 – 20:00 Monday to Friday and between 08:00 – 10:00 on a Saturday morning. The appointments are offered for routine problems and not for urgent issues. Also North Hampshire Urgent Care are also offering routine appointments with a GP on a Sunday morning at their centre based in

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Basingstoke Hospital. The appointments are offered between 08:00 – 12:00. If you wish to book an appointment for any of these additional clinics please contact reception.

- **New Appointment...** we would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr Christina Vajdi to our surgery. She will be working Tuesday afternoons and all day Friday and will add some much needed capacity.

ROTARY NOTES Roy Roberts

Rotary linking up with Ghana

Rotary members in Four Marks and Medstead are developing links with a charity that is focussing on improving the lives of children in Ghana.

The charity is called TEABAG – *The Education and Book Appeal: Ghana* – and it aims to improve education and health facilities in the village of Mankoadze, as well as the neighbouring villages of Onyadze and Abrekum.

Mankoadze is a village of about 3,000 people on the Atlantic coast of Ghana, about one and a half hours' drive from the capital, Accra. Fishing is the main industry for the villagers.

TEABAG has been working in the three villages for about ten years. The charity was founded by a London businessman, Roger Gillman, who discovered that most local children were not being educated because their parents could not afford the costs of sending them to the local school. TEABAG and its supporters have sponsored more than three hundred children to go to school and provided textbooks and school materials. Some children have gone on to acquire a college education.

One of the trustees of the charity is Tom Yendell, who is a member of Four Marks and Medstead Rotary. Tom has been heavily involved in developing a Vocational Skills Centre on the



outskirts of the village, where young people have been trained in subjects such as catering, information technology and computing, textile and fabric printing, and construction. The building also serves as a community centre.

As well as TEABAG's education work in the villages, the charity has raised funds for medical purposes, and provided a library of schoolbooks. It also organises a programme of volunteers who act as teaching assistants and language tutors.

Tom described the charity's work to Rotary members recently. He will soon be returning to Manhoodze with three other members of Four Marks and Medstead Rotary to see what further help can be offered to the three villages and will also be taking a group of pupils from Eggar's School, Alton on an educational visit.

Quizzing for Youth

A recent Quiz Night organised by Four Marks and Medstead Rotary was a sell-out with some tough questions for the competing teams. The evening – in Medstead Village Hall – raised funds for the East Hampshire youth charity, Kings Arms, which works with young carers from the Alton area. The quiz resulted in a Rotary contribution of £1,500 to Kings Arms.

The Petersfield-based charity is planning to extend its services in the Alton area soon. It is currently looking for suitable premises in Alton which could be developed as a Youth Hub and is also hoping to recruit local volunteers.

Barn Dance

Tickets are now on sale for the always popular Barn Dance 2019. It will be on February 9th at 7pm in Medstead Village Hall, with music provided by the Burlesdon Village Band. Organiser Paul Smy said the band always provided a great night of entertainment. He added, "Tickets for this event always sell out, so do get in touch now to book your night out."

Tickets are £15 each and include supper. There will also be a bar available. Proceeds will go to local and international charities supported by Rotary. For tickets contact Paul on 07974 203708 or email him at smallpii@hotmail.com

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