

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL Janet Foster - Chairman

This year, my second as Chairman, has again been busy and interesting and occasionally challenging, working for the best interests of our community. We have a full complement of councillors and I would like to thank them for all their contributions in helping to make Four Marks a better place. I would also like to thank Sarah Goudie our Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer who continues to work diligently and patiently, along with Lesley Chandler her assistant. They both deal with issues and demands from the public, official authorities and councillors.

If you are wondering where your parish precept goes, then here are some examples over the past year:

- Grounds maintenance contracts for all our open spaces including the recreation ground, cemetery and Swelling Hill pond with grass cutting, bin emptying, and tidying.
- Carried out major tree maintenance at Lymington Green, the recreation ground and wildlife corridors.
- Supported the various clubs at Benians Pavilion and currently working with them towards a new agreement with the Parish Council.
- Kept our rights of way network free of obstructions and replaced fingerposts.
- Continued to sponsor the Speed Watch and Street Watch teams and their volunteers who help create a safer community.
- Supported a variety of local charities and services.

Yes, we increased our Parish Precept by 23.8%. For Band D the total for a year is less than £1 a week per household. This is so we can continue to do all these things and more. We considered carefully and worked out that the increase was necessary and yet still very reasonable to keep our community to the standards that we believe you the residents want and expect. Again I emphasise, this is less than £1 per week.

In planning and new developments we:

- Made comments on all planning applications using the Joint Core Strategy, Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design Statement in our parish and in the next door parishes when applicable. Working closely with Medstead Parish Council, to ensure that we have a greater voice regarding planning issues that challenge our communities. Also attending and speaking at appeals.
- Supported the CC liaison meeting which ended in September.
- Are now supporting the two liaison meetings in Medstead that have recently started, sharing some of the lessons we learnt with Charles Church

From the developer contributions we have carried out the following.

- Erected new fencing along the east side of the recreation ground and created a pedestrian access point.
- Selected a contractor for the refurbishment at Oak Green Parade to replace the planting areas, seating and

street furniture and enlarging the carpark before resurfacing it. This work we hope will start in May so there will be disruption.

- Refurbished the Teenage Activity area with many different pieces of equipment.

With grants from our County Councillor and District Councillor putting in older children's swings in the children's play area.

A reminder to all residents, that at the beginning of all our meetings there is an "open session" for you to speak. The dates of all our meetings are published on our website, notice boards & social media. Our contact details can also be found in *Four Marks News*.

Finally, we are looking to introduce a Parish Community Person of the Year Award for someone who stands out and goes the extra mile giving service in our community. Nominations would be requested from Dec – Feb for giving the award at the APM. Please let us know if you think we should proceed with this idea?

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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was good to see another strong turnout for the Annual Parish Meeting, although disappointing that so many left prior to the main business of the meeting, particularly as we had anticipated some questions at the end of the session. The meeting was advertised on notice boards, at the sports and recreation ground, on the website, social media and leaflets through most residents' doors, yet still some said they knew nothing about it. If anyone has any ideas on how we can get the message out that this is your opportunity to have your say about what your village can provide, I would be very grateful to receive them. We did receive some interesting questions for the panel, most of which were answered, although some will need to be clarified and these will be available for the Minutes. By the time you read this, the council will have discussed the meeting and whether the format worked, or whether changes need to be made.

OAK GREEN

Work starts on the refurbishment project week commencing 15th May. There will be disruption and we can only ask for patience and apologise for the temporary inconvenience.

PARKING AT THE SCHOOL

The County Councillor, District Councillor, Parish Council and the school are all now actively involved in trying to alleviate the problems with parking at the school. We are hoping very soon to have a 'round the table' brain storming session. Thank you to Mark Kemp Gee for becoming actively involved in this issue. Hopefully we can go some way to improving the situation.

TENNIS COURTS AND MULTI USE GAMES AREA

Now installed and already a great hit, although there is a small issue with balls going into the tennis courts which are locked. This will be discussed at our next open space meeting. The swings, too, are seemingly

extremely popular. We are now looking at options to replace the timber multi play unit which, although safe, has certainly seen better days.

TREES

Another issue that has been raised as a concern is the amount of trees in the village that are being lost. Whilst it is understood that some have to go due to disease or for health and safety reasons, it appears that others are going to alleviate other issues. The Parish Council have recently planted 6 new trees at the Recreation Ground and are about to undertake a project to identify trees that are of amenity value and request protection, and also look for areas to plant trees to try and replace those lost. There are a good number of trees in the village already awarded protection. If you have a tree that is shading your garden or, dropping leaves and branches, rather than remove it, please consider that there are other works that can be done to improve the situation rather than just removing the whole tree. Please look at all options prior to complete removal, trees benefit everyone.

As always, if you have any questions on the any of the above items, then please contact me, my details are on the Civic Representatives page.

Parish Council Meetings

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



Wednesday 17th May
7:30 pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Village Hall

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

www.fourmarksvillage.co.uk

EAST HANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ingrid Thomas
District Councillor

This year has been very varied; early in the civic year we had the wonderful celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday. The huge effort by the whole village to make the weekend truly special was a superb example of what can be achieved by working together and involving the whole community.

One of the highlights of every year is being able to help groups and organisations around the villages with small grants. This year both Deborah and myself were given £4500 to use for projects of community benefit. My grant fund this year was spent on and helped towards: The Queen's birthday celebrations which so many enjoyed; The older persons holiday club; adding a name to the war memorial; a new gate for the children's play area; a new picnic bench; an information

board for Medstead pond and a donation towards the new cooker for the village hall kitchen.

The new year's funding is now available so if you have a project which will benefit our community please download an application form from East Hampshire District Ward Councillor for Four Marks and Medstead website and hand it either to me or to Deborah for signature.

I have as ever spent the largest per cent of my time dealing with planning issues. Looking to the future, Officers are working hard on Part 3 of the Local Plan which involves allocating land for affordable homes, older persons homes, gypsies and traveller sites and updating the SPB. There will also be a call for sites - possible shlaa sites - but just because a site is listed as a shlaa site does not mean it would get planning permission. The recent Government white paper means changes may have to be made to Local Plans and East Hampshire's will certainly need to be updated on a regular basis to ensure that we do not have a period with no current plan as we had a few years ago.

We have seen the building begin on two of our large sites and a third about to start. We got the mud we expected! Things seem to have calmed down along Lymington Bottom but Friars Oak will begin in the next month or so, not being built by WLG but by Bellway Homes who have just bought the site. They attended their first residents liaison meeting recently. I feel these meetings are very important because they offer the opportunity for residents to talk directly to the developers. Sadly both Cala and Miller Homes are missing this opportunity by insisting that their meetings are held in the mornings.

Recently we have seen the Neighbourhood Plan policies used to good effect to prevent the overdevelopment of a site in Lymington Bottom which did not respect the character of the street scene. We have also seen permissions given for four travellers pitches in Willis Lane which many people feel is too many in one place. Once the five year housing land supply for such pitches is secured and part 3 of the local plan is made we will be able to have proper planning for such sites in future.

Both Parish Councillors and myself have spent many hours dealing with amendments to plans once a site has commenced. One particular site even managed to change the numbers of rooms in each house. This trend has been noted by the planning officers and letters sent to developers pointing out that they should build what they applied for. Let us hope for better next year.

TPO trees have been inspected by the Tree Officer Stewart Garside who has surveyed the trees in the villages. The penalties can be very large if permission is not given for works needing to be done. For example if a TPO tree is removed to enable access to a site the fine can be the whole amount of the profit that would be made.

During this year I have become a member of East Hampshire Cabinet with responsibility for Welfare and Healthier Lifestyles. One of the projects that is being undertaken will be Festiwell to be held on Sunday July

9th at Four Marks Recreation Ground. Festiwell will offer ideas on how small changes to lifestyle can bring big health benefits, there will be a run, walks, demos and 'have a go' sessions for many sports. Not all of us want to partake of vigorous exercise but most gentle activity can be very beneficial so gardening and hobby clubs will be showing what they have to offer and there will also be an area for mindful activity. Of course food is always a big issue so we hope to have new options and ideas on show. Health providers are coming to offer help and ideas, so something to inspire us all. Please put the date in your diary.

A health issue that I have spent time recently working on is the stroke service provided by Royal Surrey County Hospital. At the moment we are in a consultation period but it seems very likely that the stroke unit will close. Most people who have need of expert stroke services in Four Marks and Medstead will be taken by ambulance to either Winchester or Basingstoke. From what I have learned whilst investigating this subject it is essential that an ambulance is called rather than taking the person by car to the hospital. This is because ambulances take patients directly to the stroke units whereas patients taken by car are admitted through A&E, which will take far longer.

Since Mark Kemp Gee and his highways team have finally dug new drainage areas flooding has been far less in Lymington Bottom. They are still working on the flooding by the school. Parking at the schools remains a serious problem and it has been included on the work plan for this year. I have been checking regularly to ensure the problems are looked at as soon as possible. In the meantime I would urge all parents to just take a little longer to think about where they park and how their actions affect others. It's never easy to leave enough time for the school run but better to be late than cause danger to others.

The Four Marks meeting this year took the format of Question Time and one of the questions I was asked was what did a week in the life of a district councillor look like? So this is the answer for last week: **Monday** - meeting with planning management team. We talked about issues around the district and some problems in this ward, followed by meeting with communities team, which talked about problems with Benjaminuk homes, disability access and Festiwell, then a quick tour of the Planning Office to catch up with officers on applications in our ward. **Tuesday** - meeting of the councillor development panel to discuss training. **Wednesday** - meeting with the CCG to talk about the proposed closure of the RSCH stroke unit. **Thursday** - meeting to discuss the huge amount of amendments on an application in Lymington Bottom and others, how we would deal with such amendments in future and action to be taken, followed by Cabinet, followed by full Council. During the week I spoke to several residents about problems on a wide variety of topics; so a full but interesting week.

I would like to thank Janet Foster and Deborah Brooks-Jackson for their all their work on behalf of Four Marks

and Medstead this year ably supported by our Clerks Sarah, Peter and Lesley. I also feel it is important that all the residents of our village recognise the work and enthusiasm shown by all our Parish Councillors and the Neighbourhood Plan group. Thank you.

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

EAST HANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Deborah Jackson

District Councillor

The year started well, with the successful referendum result and subsequent adoption by EHDC of the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan. For a while it seemed that a local landowner might put in a legal challenge, but nothing materialised, so we now have our community's own legal document sitting alongside the District Council's Local Plan. My heartfelt thanks go out once again to all those involved in producing this outstanding document.

Whilst work at Charles Church comes to a close we have seen development commence with a vengeance at the Miller/ Beechcroft/ Carla sites. Despite the experience and lessons learned at the sites in Four Marks, it has proved incredibly difficult to get these new developers to not only meet with residents but actually comply with the conditions of their planning permissions. As many of you know, trying to get something as simple as a wheel wash facility installed, let alone actually being used, has been an uphill struggle.

Just imagine the frustration to be told at the first liaison meeting in December, that there was no way that such equipment could be installed on the Miller site before the end of January, as there was no space for it on site! Whilst I fully support the hard work of the District Council's stretched Enforcement Team, it was extremely disappointing that they appeared to be totally unable to help us by enforcing this simple requirement. And so we had to wait. After six months of mud (and all the rest) on Lymington Bottom Road, filth that extended over the pavements under the railway bridge and even on to the A31, we are now seeing improvements in this respect, including weekly sweeping of the pavements.

The next battle on my agenda will be the unauthorised early starts, lack of consideration in parking, and the state of the roads (that one is close to my heart, having lost a tyre to a giant pothole).

In my life at Penns Place, I have made representation on the behalf of the ward against applications at four meetings of EHDCs Planning Committee, with mixed success. These were for "Highfield" in Lymington Bottom, Station Approach Medstead, reserved matters for the land north of Boyneswood Lane and the extended traveller site in Willis Lane. The one appeal I attended, against the proposed housing at Mansfield Business Park was a particularly unpleasant experience but part and parcel of the job.

Joint environmental services with Winchester City Council have seen improvements in the services provided by Biffa. Uptake of green waste licences remains good and is almost at capacity. The committee has agreed to fund additional litter picking on the major roads in the district, together with a campaign to discourage motorists and major trunk road users from littering.

Following the introduction of charges for certain types of waste, fly tipping has inevitably increased. It would be interesting to see whether the additional income balances the cost of clearance. There has been some recent anxiety amongst residents about a rumour concerning the closure of the waste site in Alton. Despite pressure to sign online petitions and the like, I can confirm that it is just a rumour and, although opening times have been reduced, there are currently no plans to close the facility.

The District Councillor Community Grants Scheme once again proved popular, with the majority of my money benefiting the area south of the railway line. Projects supported this year have included:

- Medstead Parish Council, for the purchase of a community BBQ and picnic seating to be installed on the village green.
- Medstead Parish Plan Committee, for the purchase and installation of information boards at the Village Pond.
- Upgraded cooking facilities in Four Marks Village Hall
- Clothing and equipment for the Medstead Speed Watch team.
- Four Marks & Medstead Rotary Club, to support both their Christmas Lunch event and a project for improvements within the Visually Impaired Unit and Medstead School
- Mansfield Park Patient Group, to help them kick-start their new programme of health awareness talks.

I am pleased to be able to advise that the scheme is running again for 2017, with Ingrid and I each having £4500 of funding available. Finally I would just like to add that, as ever, I am only too happy to make myself available to discuss further any District Council related matters with residents of the parish.

deborah.jackson@easthants.gov.uk 07484 167743 (please leave a message/ text)



Hampshire Chief Constable's Response to the Westminster Atrocity

Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney said: "Our thoughts are with the families, friends and colleagues of those killed and seriously injured as a result of the events on Westminster Bridge, London on 22nd March. There is currently no specific intelligence to indicate an immediate threat to any locations within the UK, including Hampshire or the Isle of Wight.

As is standard procedure whenever an incident like this happens, whether in the UK or abroad, we are reviewing our security procedures and resources to ensure that they are appropriate and if any changes need to be made. We have also reviewed all pre-

planned events taking place in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in the coming days, as is normal procedure, to ensure all plans are up-to-date.

At this time we are satisfied our plans are robust but we will continue to review the situation and follow any national guidance. We understand that the events in London may cause people to worry but we would renew our advice to our communities to be alert but not to be alarmed. We would advise members of the public to remain vigilant and if you see anything that causes you concern or raises your suspicions do not hesitate to call the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321, or 999 in an emergency."

Non Delivery of Goods By Hermes

Over recent weeks there have been a number of posts on the Four Marks News Facebook page about non-delivery of online orders by Hermes. On 6th April the following message was posted by Sarah Chambers - *Hi all, just an update from my discussion earlier today with Hampshire police. They have now opened an investigation into the Hermes delivery situation in our area and have a line of enquiry to follow. I asked what we could all do to help and was told that the most useful thing you could all do is to report your own situation to them to add to the case. They urge you all to report using the online portal on the Hampshire police website or by calling them on 101...*

If you have not received goods meant to be delivered by Hermes, please will you let the Police know? Interestingly an online supplier having its orders delivered by Hermes now offers insurance for a modest fee that goods will be replaced if not received in seven days.

An Honest Scammer?

Fraudsters are sending out a high volume of phishing emails to personal and business email addresses, pretending to come from various email addresses, which have been compromised. The subject line contains the recipient's name, and the main body of text is "Hi, [name]! - I am disturbing you for a very serious reason. Although we are not familiar, but I have significant amount of individual info concerning you. The thing is that, most likely mistakenly, the data of your account has been emailed to me. For instance, your address is: [real home address]

I am a law-abiding citizen, so I decided the personal data may have been hacked. I attached the file - [surname].dot that I received, that you could explore what info has become obtainable for scammers. File password is - 2811 - Best Wishes," The emails include an attachment - a '.dot' file usually titled with the recipient's name.

This attachment is thought to contain the Banking Trojan Ursniff/Gozi, hidden within an image in the document. The Ursniff Banking Trojan attempts to obtain sensitive data from victims, such as banking credentials and passwords. The data is subsequently used by criminals for monetary gain.

Protect Yourself: Having up-to-date virus protection is essential; however it will not always prevent your device(s) from becoming infected.

CIVIC BUSINESS

Remember Don't click on links or open any attachments you receive in unsolicited emails or SMS messages: Remember that fraudsters can 'spoo' an email address to make it look like one used by someone you trust. If you are unsure, check the email header to identify the true source of communication (you can find out how by searching the internet for relevant advice for your email provider). Do not enable macros in downloads; enabling macros will allow Trojan/malware to be installed onto your device. Always install software updates as soon as they become available. Whether you are updating the operating system or an application, the update will often include fixes for critical security vulnerabilities. Create regular backups of your important files to an external hard drive, memory stick or online storage provider. It is important that the device you back up to is not connected to your computer as any malware infection could spread to that as well.

If you think your bank details have been compromised, you should contact your bank **immediately**. If you have been affected by this or any other fraud, report it to Action Fraud by calling **0300 123 2040**, or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Police Neighbourhood Team

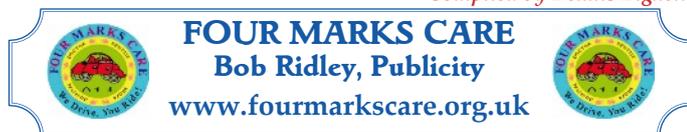
Our PCSO for Four Marks & Medstead is Matthew Sheppard who, with PC Kelly, are our neighbourhood team to contact for advice or to report a problem.

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



Please contact us if you'd like to join Four Marks Care and help locals in need for transport to non-emergency medical appointments. **Likewise we are always keen to hear from Four Marks residents who would like to seek our help.** Remember, once authorised to drive with us, volunteer drivers, when available, use their own cars to provide the service then receive a reimbursement of their travel expenses.

Our clients appreciate the service very much, and we too enjoy being helpful to those in need. Our own website provides much more information, and if you have a particular enquiry, please email us at: info@fourmarkscare.org.uk. If you would like to talk to someone, our Duty Coordinator can be contacted on: **01420 564435**. So let's hope we hear from you soon!

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.

Dispensary is on the move! - In order to make best use of the surgery space, and to increase our consulting rooms numbers, the dispensary is relocating to an area behind Reception. We will keep you updated with regards to progress of this.

Dr Andrew Isbister & Dr Amanda Masters - Dr Isbister and Dr Masters have decided to 'hang up their stethoscopes' and will retire at the end of the June. We would like to invite any past members of staff or patients who would like to come and say goodbye to our open afternoon on Friday 30th June from 2.30pm onwards at the surgery.

Dr Tracy Wood and Dr Chris Budge - We are delighted to tell you that we have managed to appoint two new Partners who will be here on the afternoon of 30th June for you to meet. Do come along and say hello to Tracy and Chris, they will be delighted to meet you.

Charity Book Table - Our charity book table is proving very popular with our patients and is a great success in terms of fundraising. Monies raised recently include: £166 for Crisis at Christmas, £63.52 Hampshire Air Ambulance and £86.31 for Comic Relief.

Patient Participation Group - Our Patient Group is very active at the moment with lots of interesting talks in the diary - to keep up to date with news and events from the group, you are invited to join - if you are interested, please contact the Chairman, Chris King-Smith at mansfieldparkppg@btinternet.com. The next meeting is on Saturday 6th May at 10am at The Church of the Good Shepherd - all are welcome.

Training Days - Please check our website for any surgery closures for staff training.

Dementia Friendly - We are delighted to tell you that, after making several changes around the surgery, and putting several staff training sessions in place, we have now been classified as a Dementia Friendly GP Surgery.

Repeat Medication Orders - The most efficient way to order repeat medication is via the online ordering method. If you haven't already obtained your password to use this method, please present at the Reception desk with either a passport or driving licence and the receptionists will be happy to print off your unique ID and password details for you. The only other acceptable methods to order medication are in person or via fax and post. **Under NHS guidelines, we will only be able to dispense one month's supply of medication per order.**

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD



Christian Aid Week
14th - 20th May

Christian Aid works globally for change that eradicates the causes of poverty, and strives to achieve equality. 65 million people across the globe have fled their homes because of disasters and conflicts. This year Christian Aid is focussing on refugees. We are all part of the Global family and our family need our help. During Christian Aid week there will be coffee mornings, sponsored walk and a street collection at Oak Green Parade. Thank you for your support.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me". Matthew 25 31-36

Val Lucas & Linda Wettone

FM
VH
Four Marks Village Hall
Chris Lake - Chairman
Village Hall AGM

This year's Village Hall AGM will be held in the Committee Room at **7:30 pm on Monday 15th May**. The hall is an important village asset, used by a majority of villagers at one time or another. If you would like to know more about what is happening or planned at the hall, or if you have ideas, proposals or queries, do come along and talk to us. We have a full committee, and there is no need to *hijack* anyone else to join, so you will be quite safe. The meeting will not be a long one, with no speeches, and reports and accounts provided in written form which can be taken home to read by anyone interested. We hope to see


ANGLING CLUB
Craig Matthews

The Annual General Meeting of Four Marks Angling Club will take place on Tuesday 2nd May at 7pm at Benians Pavilion, The Recreation Ground. All members welcome & encouraged to attend. Report to follow in May's *Four Marks News*.

Four Marks Model Railway Exhibition



Interested in railways? Or are your children interested in model trains? Four Marks Scout Group are again hosting the ever popular Model Railway Exhibition in Four Marks Village Hall on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st May. Opening hours will be 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, and 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday.

As always, the Scout Group are providing the venue, and organising admissions, Tombola and refreshments. Local model societies are arranging the actual exhibition, with a wide variety of layouts to be found in all parts of the Village Hall.



A vintage double-decker bus, originally from Aldershot, will provide free rides between the Village Hall and Four Marks Station, timed to meet Watercress Line trains. Admission charges will be: Adults £4; Children £2; Family (2+2) £10. All profits will go to Scout funds, in support of the New Scout Hut Project.

VILLAGE PICNIC
SUNDAY 18 JUNE
FOUR MARKS RECREATION GROUND

This year's Village Picnic will be held on Father's Day and we hope you will join us for another fantastic afternoon of fun and friendship. The timings will be the same as last year – we plan to hold the Picnic from 1:30 pm to 5 pm. There will be no 9.30 or 11.15 services at the church as we plan to have an open air church service to which all are very welcome at 12.30pm, with a picnic lunch at 1pm.

Many of our friends from the Village groups and associations will once again be joining us and providing food, refreshments, games and various other activities. You can bring a picnic or buy food from the many stalls, including cakes, BBQ food, teas and coffees and other refreshments. There will also be a car show. The church will be providing, free of charge, bouncy castles, rides and various games. We look forward to meeting you on 18 June. For further information please don't hesitate to contact our Church Office – details are on the church page of the magazine and on our website, or you can telephone me (Helena Hunt) on 01420 562955.