CIVIC BUSINESS

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

ecember already, what on earth happened to 2017? As last month I have a similar plea to those planning a New Year fireworks party. Please advise your neighbours, particularly if you are in the more rural areas of the village so they can protect their livestock. We want everyone to enjoy themselves, but selflessly.

Bonfires - I know we were in the month of bonfires last month, but I have had several complaints about nuisance bonfires recently. Whilst it is perfectly legal to have a bonfire in your garden with little or no restriction, you must comply with legislation laid out in the Environmental Protection Act, and excessive lighting of bonfires could lead to a fine from the local Council.

However, if you are thinking about having a garden bonfire, please think carefully before lighting and consider how it will affect your neighbours:

- Don't light a bonfire any later than one hour before dusk, preferably light it early morning or evening.
- Inform your neighbours, if only out of courtesy, so they can make other plans if they are likely to be affected by the smoke that day eg. open windows, washing out, family gatherings.
- Have as few bonfires as possible and do not include any wet or green materials as this causes excess smoke. Do not burn anything that is likely to cause excessive or pungent black smoke, particularly if you are in a built-up area or next to a road.
- Do not attempt to have a bonfire on a damp windless day or on an excessively windy day
- Have a small bonfire and add to it gradually
- Do not leave the bonfire to smoulder overnight
- Always check for wildlife prior to lighting your bonfire

These days with the focus on being 'green' think about composting your waste or re-cycle. There is less need to burn garden rubbish; EHDC provide bags and bins for garden waste to be collected.

Other news - November was a month of meetings and events. All the Parish Council Committees met and we had two Full Council meetings. The Agendas and Minutes are on the website, although Full Council minutes are not uploaded until they have been approved. The General public are welcome and indeed encouraged to attend all meetings. It's your opportunity to have your say on village life, and give the Parish Council suggestions on what you would like to see happen in your village.

There was a good turnout for Remembrance Sunday at the Village Green, and this year the sun shone, although it was chilly. The addition of the Village Sign was welcomed. Read on further for details of this month's events.

Social Media - Whether we like it or not, social media now plays a huge role in all our lives. The Parish Council do currently have a Facebook and Twitter account, although it is currently set up on a

notification basis only. Any negative or rude posts or grievances aired on social media will be responded to appropriately, however it would be appreciated that if you do have a gripe or concern or even a question on something the Parish Council has done or is planning to do, then please contact the Parish Council directly. Praise however, is always most welcome, and actively encouraged as it would be nice to do know when something is appreciated! Finally, I wish you all an enjoyable festive season and all the best for 2018.

Parish Council Meetings



Wednesday 6th December 7:30pm Planning Committee 8:30pm Open Space Committee Village Hall

Wednesday 20th December 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

EAST HANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ingrid Thomas
District Councillor

y reports always seem to major on planning and traffic; this month is no exception! Beginning with traffic problems. Firstly, my sincere sympathies are with the people injured in the three-car accident that happened at The Shrave. We residents have always recognised this as a dangerous junction. Some months ago, I went to a meeting with highways safety engineers organised by Mark Kemp-Gee to look at what could be done to improve matters. Following the accident, a multi-agency safety team is looking again at what can be done. I will, of course, share the report as soon as I have seen it. I rather suspect that speed was a contributing factor.

I was told by a resident that a lorry had managed to exceed the 30 mph speed limit in Beechlands Road. With the amount of mud being dropped by his colleagues he would not have been able to stop in an emergency. Neither the speed watch teams nor the police can possibly catch all the offenders, but we could do some self-help and ensure that we all drive within the speed limits, thus slowing others down. Some of our junctions are very congested now, so perhaps we could all try to let more people out too? It would not cost any of us a lot of time but would help our neighbours.

At the Bellway Homes liaison meeting we were encouraged by Bellway to photograph lorries that were causing nuisance and to forward those photos to Bellway so that they have evidence to stop those drivers in future. This idea was also proposed for those lorry drivers who have been reversing into people's drives or parking on the pavement. It was good to hear

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that the company would do something about the problem if they had evidence. The issue of mud on the road was brought up again and the jet washer for the wheels is to be moved back into the site so that there is more space to clean the wheels. Let's hope this helps. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this meeting, please send me your email address. The next meeting is on Monday 29th January at 6pm in Four Marks Village Hall.

The work has started on installing the pipes for the sewer over the bridge by Thames Water, but progress seems quite slow. Let's hope the bridge is not closed for too long.

The first Bargate liaison meeting was also held. It was held in the site office which proved to be unsuitable, so the next meeting for that site will be on Tuesday 30th January in Medstead Village Hall at 6pm. All those affected by the building works are invited to attend, the purpose being to improve communication between the developers and residents and try to iron out any problems. Universally mud, dust and the poor behaviour of lorry drivers seem to be the recurring problems.

Planning has been a mixed bag this month; with an appeal dismissed at Virginia in Lymington Bottom as the proposed houses were mainly outside the settlement policy boundary. Then Westward next door had its appeal allowed to build one big house beside it. Many thought was overdevelopment of the last plot in the road, but once an appeal is decided by an inspector it is decided. We have also had an application to build 65 houses outside the Settlement Policy Boundary in Lymington Bottom which will be discussed by both Parish Councils. As we have an up to date Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan and we have exceeded our allocated number of new homes by many, so policies have full weight supported by a five-year housing land supply. The application can be seen and commented on via the East Hants website.

I am sometimes invited to events which are quite randomly interesting. This month it was the launch of the new buses for the 64 route. All very smart and with an extended timetable. Getting on and off was very easy as the bus lifts and lowers itself and has a simple ramp for wheelchairs or buggies. The polluting emissions should be lessened by the better technologies used. The launch was held at Winchester Science Centre where we were treated to a screening in the planetarium. The Science Centre also seems to have many events planned over the next few months for both adults and children.

The Boundaries Review has now made its initial report which is open for consultation. Full details are on the East Hants website and you can follow the links to make your views known. For our ward of Four Marks and Medstead the proposal is to add Chawton Parish and make it a joint ward with three councillors. Currently we are underrepresented, and this would even up the numbers. Elsewhere in the district, Councillors are also experiencing boundary changes and there could be one less Councillor. The next

district elections will be in 2019, a while away, but now would be an appropriate time to consider standing at that election. If you are interested I'm very happy to talk to you about what is involved.

It seems impossible that Christmas is just around the corner so may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families, friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy 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

- 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

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 29.

CIVIC BUSINESS

Doorstep Imposters

n imposter called at an address in Sholing at 9.30am on 11th November and greeted the resident by name. He introduced himself as the new PCSO for the area – using a real PCSO's name - and showed an ID badge. The man was described as white, in his mid 30s, of average height, stocky build and short brown / ginger hair. He was wearing a black jacket with a green and yellow PCSO badge.



Be extra vigilant and follow advice to avoid being a victim of bogus callers or rogue traders. If you are unsure of a caller use a door chain or spy hole and if in doubt don't open the door. Always check the credentials

of unknown callers. Look up the number yourself - do not use the number on their ID card. Call 101 to confirm if a PC or PCSO is genuine. Stop unknown people from entering your home. Never employ cold-calling doorstep traders or engage with cold-callers on the phone. Report unwanted or suspicious callers by calling 101 – or if a crime is in progress or it's an emergency call 999. You can also provide information to the independent Crimestoppers charity if you wish to stay anonymous by calling 0800 555 111

Courier Fraud

Two elderly women in Andover received a telephone call from someone pretending to be from the police. The fake officer said that they were investigating fraudulent transactions in the victim's bank account. The victims were asked to withdraw cash from their account and a courier would collect it to check it. One victim unfortunately handed over £6,000 in cash before realising it was a con when the fraudsters tried to get more money from her.

This type of fraud starts with a telephone call from someone pretending to be from the police or your bank. The fraudster will claim there is an issue with your card or bank account and get you to reveal personal information, including your PIN number. Once they have your information, a courier will be sent to collect the card, which they can then use to withdraw money from your account.

There are many other variations on this including being told you have an outstanding tax bill or loan you need to pay off to avoid being arrested. Fraudsters may also ask you to buy a high value item to help identify counterfeit goods or to withdraw a large amount of money to catch a corrupt member of staff at the bank or Post Office.

RoSPA Advice for a Safe Christmas

Candles sparked around 1,000 UK house fires, resulting in 9 deaths and 388 casualties, in 2011/12. Fairy lights went up in smoke causing 20 fires, while Christmas trees, decorations and cards were also a fire

risk and responsible for 47 house fires, leading to 20 non-fatal casualties, across the UK. Follow these safety tips to help prevent your festivities being cut short by a trip to casualty. Buy children's gifts for the correct age group and from reputable sources that comply with standards (e.g. The Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011) and don't forget the batteries.

Look out for small items that could pose a choking hazard to young children, including parts that have fallen off toys or from Christmas trees, button batteries and burst balloons. Keep decorations and cards away from fires and other heat sources such as light fittings. Don't leave burning candles unattended. Make sure you put them out before going to bed and do not put candles on Christmas trees.

If you have old Christmas lights, seriously consider buying new ones, which will meet much higher safety standards. Keep the lights switched off until the Christmas tree is decorated. Don't let children play with lights (some have swallowed the bulbs), and remember to switch off the lights when going out of the house or going to bed.

Have scissors handy to open packaging, so you're not tempted to use a knife, and have screwdrivers at the ready to assemble toys. Beware of trailing cables and wires in the rush to connect new gadgets and appliances, and always read instructions. Falls are the most common accidents, so try to keep clutter to a minimum. Make sure stairs are well-lit and free from obstacles, especially if you have guests. Do not drink and drive, and plan long journeys so you won't be driving tired.

Have You Been Hacked Behind Your Back?

Have your emails and associated passwords fallen into the hands of hackers? There's an easy way to find out at *haveibeenpwned.com*. Simply type in your email address and you will immediately get details if you have been. I have a number of emails and one was found to have been included in four lists circulating in the public domain, although it's not clear whether this was the result of separate hacks or inclusion of a single hack being included in subsequent lists. I'm not sure it's any comfort, but I am one of 711 million email addresses and passwords in the latest list.

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 <u>emergency</u> always ring 999

Call 101 for general enquiries, non-emergency anti- social behaviour, community safely 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



Letters on topics about Four Marks, or likely to be of interest to NEWS readers are always welcome. Please write to The Editor or email editor@fourmarksnews.co.uk and include your name and address (although the address will be omitted from letters printed).

Dog attack in Four Marks

On Friday, 27 October, at approximately 2:45pm, my wife was walking Poppy, our 9 year old Dachshund. At the junction of Thorn Lane and Merlin Road, they encountered a tallish lady, with long dark hair, wearing a yellow jacket, walking a muzzled German Shepherd dog (usually more commonly known as an Alsatian). Quite unprovoked, the Alsatian repeatedly attacked our dog, without the owner/handler appearing either able or willing to prevent it. In attempting to defend Poppy, my wife fell over and banged her head on the pavement.

While my wife was recovering from her fall, the Alsatian dog owner/handler just walked away, without either apologising, or offering help or support to my wife or our, by now, very frightened and distressed Dachshund.

The incident was witnessed by a man in a nearby house. Another resident helped my wife to get up and then took my wife into her house, to recover. Later that afternoon, my wife took Poppy to the vet, where our dog was given a general anaesthetic and her wounded leg stitched. Needless to say, Poppy is still very traumatised by this incident.

With the help of local residents and our postmen/ladies, my wife has established the identity of the dog owner/handler and the police have been notified, as has the EHDC dog warden.

Of course, my concern is for my wife and Poppy but, the vicious Alsatian dog, could attack other pets and their owners. Toddlers and young children out walking with their parents, could also be at risk. Had the Alsatian not been wearing a muzzle, Poppy could have been killed. Please be careful when out walking, while this dog is about. *Name and address supplied*.

Austin Seven information - David Mawby

Does anyone in Four Marks have any information

about this car which was stored, unused, in a garage in the village for approximately 30 years? It was sold as a bereavement sale in 2014. Please contact The Editor if



you can be of assistance. He has my contact details.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

FOUR MARKS NEWS Assistant Editor needed

Enjoyed Reading This Magazine?

Looking For A New Interest?

he **Four Marks News** team is looking for an **Assistant Editor** to help the Editor with administrative work connected with production of this popular monthly magazine. The aim is that the Assistant Editor will become the main link with contributors, sending out reminders, receiving responses, acknowledging them, and preparing the production schedule. In time there will be the opportunity to work with our desk-top publishing software and prepare some of the pages appearing in Four Marks News. The work can be done at home at times to suit other commitments, with the production schedule being finalised by the middle of the month. The Assistant Editor will be part of the management team, which meets monthly, and as part of the team will work with other members to ensure that all jobs are covered each month.

The job is unpaid voluntary work on behalf of the community. It will probably appeal to somebody who has recently retired; who is looking for a new interest and who wants to get more involved in village activities. If you have a home computer, are already able to use email, word-processing software and the Internet, and are interested in broadening your computer skills then this could be just the opportunity you are looking for. To find out more please call The Editor for an informal chat without commitment on 01420 563929.

COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING

Community Carol Singing - Wednesday 13th
December at 6 pm - This popular event will be held at Lymington Barns again this year.
Norman Read has kindly offered to provide the, now traditional, hog roast for which donations will be invited, and will have a marquee in place so that we can be under cover whatever the weather.
Come and start the Christmas season with carols, readings and contributions from local school pupils. All are welcome to come and take part.

OVER 60s CHRISTMAS LUNCH

he traditional Village Hall Over 60s Christmas Lunch will be held this year on Thursday 14th December. It is organised and run by a combination of Four Marks groups and organisations, and will be free to village residents over the age of 60. This is thanks to fund raising events of many kinds run by the village groups and organisations affiliated to the Village Hall. It is now too late to book a place.

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.

Flu Vaccination Clinics - Our last walk-in flu clinics are scheduled for:

Thursday 14th December 4:30pm – 5pm Monday 18th December 11am – 12pm

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. The next drop in session is from 10am to 12pm on Thursday 30th November.

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 the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. In December our nominated charity is Crisis for Christmas.

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.

BOUNDARIES SURGERY Kevin Evans - Practice Managerwww.boundaries-surgery.com

01420 562153

Surgery Opening Times

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8am–6:30pm Wednesday 8am-7:45pm; Friday 7:30am-6:30pm

FOBS - Did you know that all patients of Boundaries Surgery are deemed to be members of 'Friends of Boundaries Surgery' (FOBS) and are most welcome to attend the AGM in May each year?

FOBS was formed back in the late 1980's to raise funds for the surgery to provide additional facilities for patients. Examples of purchases include Kardia mobile ECG analysis devices, electronically adjustable couch/phlebotomy chair in the Treatment Rooms, the self-monitoring blood pressure machine and the pulse oximeter. FOBS also helped with the purchase of the Check-in Screen and its ongoing licence fee, the maintenance contract for the portable oxygen cylinder, high back chairs for the waiting room, books on coping with bereavement and most recently paying the set-up fee for the new Online Appointment System. All of these assist the Surgery staff to provide better quality or more specialist care for patients of all ages. We are very grateful for all the support we receive - from the FOBS committee, from patients and from our local businesses who generously donate goods or services, not forgetting those who attend the events we organise each year.

Patient participation group (PPG) - We have had a 'virtual' participation group for some time, but after interest shown from that group a 'real' group has now been formed! It had its inaugural meeting in August and a second in September, where the aim of our PPG was explored and a Terms of Reference agreed.

Challenges - At the second session of our PPG, we discussed some of the challenges currently facing our practice – and beyond! Top of the list was:

DNAs (Did-Not-Attends) - An NHS survey carried out earlier this year revealed that one million patients a week are unable to get appointments with GPs. This discovery has a link with the numbers of patients not attending for their booked appointment. At our own surgery in the month preceding the September PPG meeting, 50 appointments were missed. That represents over 9 hours of clinical time, both doctor and nurse. Sadly, there has been a noticeable increase

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

in missed appointments over the past few months. If you have made an appointment which you know you will not be able to attend, do please contact the surgery to cancel it. This will allow others who have been unable to get an appointment that day, to be contacted at short notice to come and see the doctor. We will be offering a text reminder service, once we have our IT issue fixed, in the hope that this will reduce the number of missed appointments.

Numbers 2 and 3 on the list, respectively, were 'Online Repeat Medication and IT issues' and 'Good use of the 10 minute appointment' – but more on these next time.

As a Boundaries patient if you would like to join our PPG, or if you would like to learn more about FOBS, then please do contact Kevin on the number above.

And finally...we would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



ROTARY NOTES Roy Roberts



It's a Shoe-In!

'he Christmas season is well under way for members of Four Marks and Medstead Rotary, as the annual Shoebox Appeal gathers

pace. It's the eighth year for the appeal to be organised in this area.

The idea is to pack gifts into shoe boxes, which are then shipped to



Albania, Montenegro, Moldova and Romania for distribution at Christmas to disadvantaged children. This year a hundred shoe boxes have been filled, donated and collected locally.

The appeal organiser, Rotary member Lisa Martin, said the response this year had been particularly heartwarming, with boxes collected from primary school pupils in Four Marks, Medstead and Chawton, as well as from members of Medstead (Roedowns) WI, members of churches in Medstead, Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden, and from Rotary members. Lisa added, "The response to this appeal has been excellent, and I



would like to thank all who contributed - this generosity will certainly be appreciated by the children who receive the boxes at Christmas."

Top Award for 'Sparks'

A member of Four

Marks and Medstead Rotary has been given one of the movement's most prestigious awards. Mike Sanders has been made a Paul Harris Fellow, an honour named after the founder of Rotary. Mike – known as

'Sparks' - has been a member of Rotary for many years. His most recent achievement was leading the Rotary team which created a Sensory Art Room at Medstead School earlier this year. His award is recognition of his efforts to further better understanding and friendly relations worldwide.

He said it was a great honour to be part of Rotary, "which helps to contribute to meeting so many worthwhile local and international needs". He has been a member of Rotary for more than 30 years and previously a member of Round Table for 20 years, in various communities in this country and abroad. As a Paul Harris Fellow, Mike is in distinguished company - other recipients of the award include US President Jimmy Carter, US astronaut James Lovell and former UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Mike was presented with his award at a recent conference by Wessex District Governor Mike ("Colonel") Sanders (no relation!), who is also a member of Four Marks and Medstead Rotary.

Another Top Award...

Four Marks and Medstead Rotary (4MMR) member Tom Yendell has been presented with a Corporate Social Responsibility Award, in recognition of his

major contribution towards the project to create a Sensory Art Room at Medstead School. The project – completed in May benefits a group of hearing impaired and special needs pupils. Tom, with support



from the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists Association (MFPA), created a remarkable interactive magnetic wall board game, which offers considerable educational benefits. Tom was presented with the award by Mike 'Sparks' Sanders, who led the project. MFPA is one of 4MMR's 21 business partners who contributed to the success of this project.

Four Marks Pavilion Bar December

Your Local Sky Sports and BT Sports Venue

Friday 1st, 15th and 29th from 5pm - 11pm Friday 23rd 5pm - 11.30pm - Live Music 8pm - 11pm Christmas Eve 12 Noon - 12.30am - Disco 8pm - Midnight Christmas Day 12 Noon - 2.00pm

Boxing Day 6pm - 11pm

New Years Eve 6pm - 12.30am

Keep up to date with changes and additional opening hours by checking us out at www.facebook.com/fourmarkspavilionbar

Even if you have no account you can still view.