

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

The Parish Council are delighted that cricket will once again be played at Four Marks. Medstead Cricket Club are unable to use their pitch this year due to damage and they approached the Parish Council and asked if they could hire the Four Marks pitch for the whole season. They of course said yes, so there will once again be cricket played most weekends throughout the Summer which is great news. The first match, a friendly, will be played at the end of the month, weather permitting of course, so do come down and support them. We will be renewing our pleas to owners not only pick up your dog's mess but we ask all dog walkers to respect that this is first and foremost a sports pitch and ask for dogs to be kept under control at all times.

**Dog fouling** - Since my report last month, I am sad to say this has not improved. If anything it's worse. There is evidence once again that the children's play area has had a dog or dogs in it, and despite a brief respite during half term, we have now had to start locking the playground again at night. Except for one night when someone decided it would be 'fun' to remove the padlock and chain from the children's play area gate and put it on the gate between the Recreation Ground and Medstead Farm, which of course caused much consternation to the residents. However it was resolved as soon as the Parish Council were notified with no real harm done.

**CCTV** - is due to be installed in the next month, so it is hoped that this will put a stop or at least almost eliminate this anti-social activity, and once EHDC's consultation period on the introduction of new legislation is over, and they are able to introduce local policies, it will be possible to fine and prosecute offenders. This includes those people taking dogs in the children's play area, whether their dogs foul or not. However, in the meantime, if anyone sees a dog in the children's play area, then please report this, in confidence, to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council are delighted that so many people are coming to the Recreation Ground to use the facilities. Dog walkers almost outnumber all other visitors. Whilst we welcome everyone, anyone who uses the Recreation Ground as part of their business must contact the Parish Council. There are strict rules and regulations in place, and this includes dog walking businesses. Some parishes have already introduced a maximum dogs per person policy. We don't want to do this, however if a dog walking business is using the Recreation Ground, then they need to do so officially.

**Annual Parish Meeting** - The Annual Parish meeting this year is to be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, and we are delighted to welcome Jamie Gargett from EHDC who will be giving an extremely informative talk on Trees, Tree Preservation Orders and the Law. So, if you want to know why certain trees are awarded protection, and what action can be taken if you carry out any work to a protected tree, then this is the talk for

you. There will also be the presentation for this year's Parish Council Community Award, together with the usual reports from Parish, District and County Councillors. Refreshments will be available from 7.00pm and we look forward to seeing as many people there as possible. Further details available on the flyer in the Four Marks News or on local notice boards and the website.

**Cemetery** - Thank you to everyone who has contacted me following my article last month on the Cemetery Rules and Regulations. Following a recent inspection there are now only two or three non-compliant grave plots, so thank you for acknowledging this concern. Maintenance works will be carried out during April and once again we apologise for any disruption.

**Parish Council Elections** - By the time you read this the Election will have been announced, and candidates will have already been submitting their nomination forms. **The deadline for submission of nominations is 4.00pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.** If more than 10 nominations are received there will be an election in Four Marks and you will have the opportunity to elect your Councillors to represent you on the Parish Council. The ballot paper will show all the nominees and you will be asked to select **10 candidates.** Please keep an eye on notice boards, the website and social media for regular updates.

District Councillor elections will also take place and at this election you will be voting for **3 District Councillors** due to a change in Ward boundaries.

As always, please contact me at the Parish Office for any further information or with any concerns.

## EAST HANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ingrid Thomas  
District Councillor

This month we have had two important consultations. The first was a Hampshire Highways consultation on projects under consideration for our villages. This came about as a result of the meetings held at County Hall in Winchester and attended by Mark Kemp Gee our County Councillor, Janet Foster FMarks PC chairman and Sarah Goudie FM clerk, Roy Pullen Medstead PC vice chairman, Peter Fenwick Medstead PC and myself. We put forward the highways problems affecting residents and 4 projects were chosen to be considered at the consultation.

The problems at Blackberry Lane/ Brislands Lane crossroads were discussed and the visibility exiting Brislands Lane has now been improved. Unfortunately, the tightness of the junction at the bottom of Blackberry Lane cannot be changed.

The project to add pedestrian lights to the Lymington Bottom crossroads will be happening soon. Not only will they help pedestrians to cross safely but may also help in our desire to slow traffic down along the A31. The idea of widening the bell mouth at Boyneswood

Road to assist with people turning right onto the A31 also looks likely to happen. When I first became a Councillor I said that I would try to get a separate pedestrian bridge across the railway at Boyneswood Road. This has proved a very time consuming and difficult challenge. We're not there yet but now there are serious discussions happening so I'm beginning to hope that we may yet get our bridge to keep people safe.

The second consultation was for the East Hants Local Plan review. The officers have been all around the district with the draft plan answering questions. More people turned up at the event in Medstead village hall than anywhere else in the district! The comments made will be considered and any alterations made to the draft plan before a second consultation. Our Neighbourhood Plan is not part of this review and will remain part of planning policy as it is.

Land allocations for gypsy and traveller sites have caused the most consternation, however most of those sites now have an application made so we can see what is proposed before the draft plan consultation is even complete!

The course I attended on Ash Die Back was a very interesting if frightening experience. The number of trees that are affected is huge, East Hants is currently assessing the size of the problem on recreation grounds that are council owned and HCC are trying to plan to deal with those trees that could cause highways problems. Across Hampshire this is likely to amount to 175,000 trees. I am told this is a bigger problem than Dutch Elm disease and will change our landscape dramatically. We are trying to get a group of volunteers together as Tree Wardens who will keep a watchful eye on the health of trees local to them, so if you can volunteer please contact me. It will only involve noticing trees whilst you are walking about!

There will be local council elections in May where the electoral boundaries have been updated. This is partly because we now have so many more people living in the villages. The changes mean that our Ward will now elect three district councillors instead of two and Chawton will become part of our Ward. Most importantly it means that at the election you need to make **THREE** choices, that's **THREE** marks on the voting slip. Please don't forget to go to vote on Thursday 2nd May and whoever you vote for ensure you use all your votes.

As ever if I can be of assistance to you on any East Hants matters please contact me. 01420 561552 or email: [ingrid.thomas@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:ingrid.thomas@easthants.gov.uk).

### FACEBOOK

Four Marks News now has a presence on Facebook. It is a closed group for people to post comments, articles and photographs about Four Marks News and the village. We can also alert members to breaking news. Posted items may appear in the magazine. Search for **FOUR MARKS NEWS** to join.



The Editor, Assistant Editor and Advertising Manager are moderators.

## Four Marks War Memorial

John Hammond

Following the information that I have provided to The Imperial War Museum to register our memorial, it is now formally registered and together with the detail of names, is now included in the War Memorials Register online. This means that any interested parties can interrogate the data base to find relatives who lost their lives in the wars, and identify where their names are commemorated. Our memorial is recorded with reference number 81256. I have reported to The Imperial War Museum that there are a couple of adjustments that need to be made to the way our content has been recorded on the site, and they will hopefully deal with this in due course, although at present they are very busy with work arising from the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day which will obviously take priority.

You can find the Four Marks memorial at [iwm.org.uk](http://iwm.org.uk). Under 'War Memorials Register', search for Four Marks.

You will find there are two listings. The first is for our memorial, listing all those from the village who gave their lives in the wars. The second is The Four Marks Institute Roll of Honour. This list in a glazed frame hangs high on the wall in the church. It is a list of all those from Four Marks who served in The Great War, and is a quite separate list from those commemorated on the memorial.

I have also applied to have our memorial listed as a Heritage Memorial for the future, and if successful would mean that it is preserved and can not be demolished, taken down, or removed in the future. There is quite a strict criteria for this listing and because of heavy workload, they are currently only considering memorials seen as 'under threat'. To assist our request I have taken the opportunity to record that with future roadwork changes being considered for the Lymington Bottom Junction, there is a possibility that the memorial could in future be under threat.

*Reply subsequently received from Historic England: Unfortunately, we can only assess a building or structure that is under thirty years old in exceptional circumstances. Even then, we can only consider the building for listing at Grade II\* or Grade I, and when it is relatively close to the thirty year limit. Ed.*

*Chris Lake writes:* The framed Roll in the church is actually a copy, and there is a second one in the village hall. • The original is held at the Hampshire Records Office in Winchester. I know this, because I took it there myself about 20 years ago, at the urging of Burton and Betty Mills. The original was in the village hall, but Burton and Betty were afraid that it would deteriorate or become lost, so it was transferred to the • Records Office controlled environment archives. The • Records Office provided the copies we now have.

## The Village Hall and Its Future

Chris Lake

There has been a host of rumours flying around the village – “the Village Hall is closing/ being sold/ falling down/ converted to a hostel for the homeless” (OK, I made the last one up). All wrong! In at least the short to medium term, the Village Hall remains open for business, with all facilities available and fully maintained, just as it has for many years past.

The root of most of the rumours stems from the Parish Council consultation before Christmas on ways to provide more desperately needed community space. A small majority favoured the sale of the Village Hall to part-fund a new, much larger building, probably at the recreation ground. Almost as many wished to retain and upgrade the existing Village Hall. These two options seem to have divided the village almost as much as Brexit has divided the country.

The Village Hall, even if extensively refurbished, lacks enough capacity for all who would like to use it, and will never have anywhere near enough car parking space. On the other hand, it is almost a historic building by Four Marks standards, even if the architectural merit is zero. Many villagers have over the years invested time, effort and money into making it as good as possible, and it is greatly cherished by many, particularly the long-term villagers.

In order to move forward from this impasse, the Parish Council need to know whether a sale of the Village Hall would even be possible, and if the Village Hall Trustees might agree to such a sale. Our first reaction was to say we would need to see some financial estimates in order to gauge the feasibility of such a project. The Parish Council have obtained some valuations of the Village Hall site, and we now have some broad-brush costings for a large new community building.

With all this information to hand, the Parish Council posed the question as to whether the Trustees would agree in principle to the sale of the Village Hall. At a special meeting of the committee, we concluded that the proposed new building would cost considerably more than the value of the existing hall. It was pointed out that funding the large additional costs would be the responsibility of the Parish Council, not the Village Hall committee. Also, to agree to support this project by sale of the Village Hall, we would require a solid guarantee that groups and organisations formally affiliated to the Village Hall would continue to hold this status at the new building, with committee representation and preferential rates as at present.

The matter was then put to the vote; the motion was agreed as:

“The Village Hall Trustees will agree *in principle* to the sale of the Trust property, when a better building, fully funded, is assured”

The motion was agreed, with 7 votes in favour, 1 against, and 2 abstentions.

We would like to make it clear that this is NOT a firm commitment to sell the Village Hall; merely an agreement to *consider* the sale under the right circumstances. We would first wish to see detailed and firmly costed plans for a new building, together with all necessary funding assured. We would also need full details of the ownership of the new building, who would run it and how. We would then have to weigh up the potential benefits of the project against the undoubted sorrow of many at losing their existing Village Hall, and in doing so, consider the needs and wishes of *all* villagers equally.

Even if the Village Hall Trustees concluded that sale of the Village Hall was justified, this would by no means be conclusive. Under the terms of the Trust Deed, a meeting of all inhabitants over 18 in the “Area of Benefit” must be called (the Area of Benefit includes both the Civil and Ecclesiastical Parishes of Four Marks, which includes the area north of the Watercress Line now termed South Medstead). A vote of inhabitants would be taken, so all opposed to the sale would have their say.

Provided a majority of the inhabitants voted in favour of the sale, the matter would then have to be referred to the Charity Commission for their agreement. They would most certainly require full assurance that the new facilities would be equal or better than the existing Village Hall, which of course has always been the intention of the Parish Council. They would also need details of who would run the new building, and probably insist it was a Registered Charity, either the existing Village Hall Trust or a new charity set up for the purpose. Simply selling the hall and handing the money over to the Parish Council is most unlikely to be permitted. Even then, it took almost two years to transfer the tennis courts to the Parish Council, even though everyone was in full agreement, so obtaining permission to sell the Village Hall may take quite a while.

The way forward is now in the hands of the Parish Council. Knowing that funds from the sale of the Village Hall are at least possible, they are able to both begin more detailed planning of a new building to cater for both existing and new users, and to seek funding from a variety of sources to cover costs over and above the value of the Village Hall. Experience suggests that this may take some time, but in the meantime the Village Hall will continue to serve the community as it always has done.

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

This year's Village Picnic, organised by COGS, will be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June.



# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019**  
**FOUR MARKS VILLAGE HALL - 7.30PM**  
**REFRESHMENTS FROM 7.00PM**

**“TREES, PRESERVATION ORDERS AND THE LAW”**

PRESENTATION BY  
JAMIE GARGETT MICFOR, ARBORICULTURE MANAGER, EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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***FOUR MARKS COMMUNITY AWARD PRESENTATION***

**ANNUAL PARISH, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR  
REPORTS  
AND  
PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

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For further information please contact:  
The Clerk, Four Marks Parish Council, Uplands Lane, Four Marks GU34 5EW  
Tel: 01420 768284; [clerk@fourmarkspc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@fourmarkspc.co.uk); [www.fourmarksvillage.co.uk](http://www.fourmarksvillage.co.uk)

# COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

**WATERCRESS MEDICAL GROUP**  
**Louise Webb, Deputy Practice Manager**  
[www.watercressmedical.co.uk](http://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.

**Proposed Road & Access Changes** - Many thanks to all those patients who took the time to register their views and comments with East Hampshire District Council regarding the proposed changes to the road adjacent to the surgery.

**Friends & Family** - We would be grateful if patients could take a few moments to answer the friends and family questions available on slips in the surgery, or online via our website.

**Dispensary** - Monday to Friday 8:30am - 12 midday & 3.00pm - 6:30pm

Please allow **at least three working days** when ordering your repeat medication. At busy times, such as Bank holidays, we would ask for **at least a week's** notice.

**Statistics** - We are increasingly being asked by patients how many people the GPs are able to see. We also receive queries regarding issuing more than one month's medication at a time. The statistics for February 2019 are shown below:

During February, the staff in the Dispensary issued and dispensed over **3660** items of medication.

In the same month, the GPs conducted **2567** patient consultations, **654** telephone consultations and **25** home visits. The practice nurses saw **536** patients and the practice nurse assistants saw **828** patients.

**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** - In February we raised £43 for the NSPCC. During March we have been raising funds for Comic Relief Red Nose Day, and in April we will be raising funds for Crohn's & Colitis UK.

**Care Cars** - 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. Please note a donation will be required.

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](http://www.fourmarkscare.org.uk) or  
[info@fourmarkscare.org.uk](mailto:info@fourmarkscare.org.uk).

## Patients helping Patients

Too late to have made the March issue, but members of the Patient Group carried out a short traffic survey of vehicle movements in and out of the Surgery car park on 2 mornings at the end of February. This was a contribution to the comments from the Surgery about



THE PATIENT GROUP

MANSFIELD PARK SURGERY, MEDSTEAD

the changes proposed by EHDC to the car park access.

There have been rumours that the GP contract with NHS England no longer requires practices to have a Patient Group. This is untrue. The contract still requires every practice to have a PPG. Each practice is required to make an annual self-declaration electronically to NHS England confirming that they *'have engaged with their PPG throughout the year and made available such feedback to the practice population'*, *'including actions and reports where they have acted on suggestions for improvement'*. Care Quality Commission inspectors also expect to see and engage with a PPG in each practice. This has been confirmed by the Surgery.

It might be helpful to reiterate the aim of the Patient Group. It exists to enhance the quality of the patient care provided by the Surgery by enabling patients to offer their views on how that care is provided. It does not, of course, remove the right of every patient to consult with the Surgery about their care, but by providing a focus for patient views, the Patient Group can offer advice and work with the Surgery to find collective solutions as, for example, on future procedures for flu jabs. Patient participation is a unique partnership between patients, GPs and their practice which results in high quality and responsive care.

Every patient registered with the Practice is automatically a member of the Patient Group and is entitled to use the services it offers. If you require more information please email the Chair of the Group at [mansfieldparkppg@btinternet.com](mailto:mansfieldparkppg@btinternet.com)

# COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD



## ROTARY NOTES Roy Roberts



### Aiming for a zero-carbon community

The Alton area could lead the way as a zero-carbon community, according to Jennie Griffiths of Energy Alton. She was launching a local action plan for the year ahead at a meeting with Four Marks and Medstead Rotary.

The six-point plan includes a drive to reduce energy use in the home through offering free home energy reviews and thermal imaging surveys, with advice on energy-efficient lighting, on insulation and damp problems and on renewable energy systems.

The plan also aims to persuade people to eat less meat. She said that a vegetarian diet could reduce individual carbon emissions dramatically and urged people to eat more locally-produced fruit and vegetables.

Jennie Griffiths also said people should fly less for holidays, because of the carbon emissions caused by aviation. "Try holidays in the UK or Europe instead by traveling by train or coach," she said. She also urged greater use of car share schemes and encouraged more walking and cycling.



Jennie Griffiths explains Energy Alton's climate change action plan to Rotary President Phil Talbot.

The plan also urges consumers to buy less and consider using second-hand goods instead, and to switch savings and investment away from companies involved in extracting fossil fuels.

She said that the main current focus of Energy Alton as a local pressure group was to highlight the global climate change emergency, with the melting of

arctic sea ice and the antarctic ice sheet leading to huge sea level rises, threatening food supplies. She argued that there was a lack of leadership by central Government on climate change, and that local councils could do much more to encourage recycling and sustainability at a local level.

### 'The world isn't only black and white...'

Voluntary organisations such as Rotary need to make more effort to ensure their membership is inclusive and diverse, argues Joanne Lockwood. Joanne is a motivational speaker who specialises in equality and diversity workplace issues and is President-Elect of a new Rotary club recently formed in South-East

Hampshire. She recently spoke on diversity issues to members of Four Marks and Medstead Rotary.

She said that people are too ready to make snap judgements on others on first impressions and within a few seconds. "The world isn't only black and white. We are all unique and different, and organisations such as Rotary have to attract different types of people to join," she said, quoting the words of Scott Adams: 'Everyone is somebody else's weirdo.'



Joanne Lockwood discusses a diversity action plan with Rotary President-Elect Mike Sanders

She said that fellowship in organisations such as Rotary should lead to tolerance that transcended racial, gender, national or other boundaries, and there should be greater recognition that members who are different in some way could contribute valuable knowledge, skills and insight. She added that embracing inclusion and celebrating diversity could achieve innovation and greater productivity in any organisation.

Four Marks and Medstead Rotary is planning a campaign to welcome new members later this year. President-Elect Mike Sanders said that anyone interested in joining Rotary would be welcome at any of the club's meetings. Mike can be contacted on 01420 561144 for details of future meetings.

## Parish Council Meetings



**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**  
**7:30pm Open Space Committee**  
**8:30pm Planning Committee**  
**Village Hall**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Annual Parish Meeting**  
**7:30pm Village Hall**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**  
**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](http://www.fourmarksvillage.co.uk)