

Marsworth News

Serving the village and parish of Marsworth

Your independent village newsletter, produced ten times a year, omitting August and January. Delivered free to every home in Marsworth.

Items for next month's newsletter by the 18th of the month.

Email to: editor@marsworthnews.co.uk

Adverts to: advertising@marsworthnews.co.uk

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Marsworth's Oldest Resident is 107

by Denise Cornwall

Kitty Pinnock, Marsworth's oldest resident, was born on Friday 28th February in 1919. She enjoyed a very happy childhood growing up in Walthamstow with her adoptive parents. As she says, "We had nothing, but we had everything. I was very much loved."



Kitty, celebrating her 107th birthday

This year followed the familiar pattern of her birthdays, beginning with a phone call from me. As always, the conversation starts with "Oh my, you've answered the phone," followed by, "Yes, Den, I'm still here. Sorry about that." I then reply, "Well, I suppose I'd better wish you a happy birthday," to which she responds with her trademark humour.

It is a routine that may puzzle some people, but it suits us perfectly and always raises a laugh. On the day cards, flowers and phone calls arrived, including from the King and Queen, one of several she has had, and was proudly displayed. Her great-grandchildren were delighted to present a large chocolate cake, topped with candles forming the number 107. The following day, a few of us went to The Swan in Ivinghoe Aston for a Sunday roast.

Her age, her famous appetite, sense of humour, and celebrating her birthday at the pub prompted plenty of conversation. Kitty remains a member of Marsworth Ladies and takes part whenever she can. She also greatly enjoys the Wednesday coffee mornings at the Baptist Church in Tring, where she meets friends, shares news, and swaps stories from years gone by. She has always enjoyed meeting people and a good conversation.

Will I be writing about her birthday again next year? As I have said in previous years, my fingers are crossed.

Best Kept Village Award Entries Open



The Best kept Village Award has been running in Buckinghamshire for 69 years. This year Marsworth will be entered in the Morris Cup section for villages with a population of 501-1501. It would be lovely if residents could apply for Marsworth to be entered this year.

Application forms and more information are available from the Parish Clerk at clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk.

Judging will take place between 1st June and 14th July. A short report incorporating the judges' comments will be sent to every entrant.

Marsworth News

editor@marsworthnews.co.uk

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Thank you to all our volunteer distributors who deliver Marsworth News to every home in the parish.

Marsworth News also available online at Marsworth.org.uk

Marsworth Village Hall Hire of rooms

Main Hall - available for parties and special occasions. Licensed for up to 100 seated and up to 200 for dances.

Upstairs room - available for meetings or activities.
Can seat 24 for smaller functions.

For bookings, availability and charges contact Frances Brown on 01296 661211 after 4.00pm.

The Bucks Herald

Please send items about upcoming events, or of local interest, to:

Kate Andrew

01296 668727 / 07963 180466
or
kate.andrew@btinternet.com

Last postal collections (Marsworth)



Church, Hall and Startops:
Mon-Fri: 9.00am / Sat: 7.00am

Tring Post Office - 5.30pm

Ivinghoe Post Office - Open:

Mon- Sat: 7.30am - 8.30pm
Sun: 9.00am - 4.00pm

Editorial

Lynn Mildner and Zoë Card

In this issue many pages are given over to the reports from local organisations for the Annual Parish Meeting. These are an important part of how our community works. It is also an opportunity for those organisations to 'showcase' what they do or have achieved. We are lucky to have such active and dedicated Parish Councillors in Marsworth, whose work largely goes unnoticed.

If you would like to join their work there is currently a vacancy. Details are on page 6.

It is the efforts of people within our village that make Marsworth such a wonderful community. It is so heartening to see the upcoming events throughout the year and populating our calendar. This includes; the Steam Rally, Jumble Sale, Table Top Sale, The annual Plant Sale, as well as the regular fund raisers such as the 100 Club, and we are certain there are more to come.

If you would like to join in and support these events there are details for various volunteering positions within this issue to reach out directly. If you feel you have a few hours a month to help the community, you can let us know and we can also pass your details on to the various groups.

2026 Steam Rally Needs Your Help



The tea tent will need lots of support this year as we understand there will be a larger tent offering more space and more seating and therefore needing more of our homemade cakes to delight our customers. If you are able to support the tea tent with cakes or time to serve on a minimum of a one hour basis please contact Gill White on 01296 662252.

Cakes are best delivered to the tent on the day but can be left overnight at Horseshoe Cottage, Church Lane if that is more convenient. We find cakes without creams or chocolate decorations are easier to serve. Ladies happy to man the tea urns are kept constantly busy, and it was absolutely amazing how many teas were served last year with all our cakes and bakes sold out by 4.30pm.

It's a tiring day, but a very happy successful one, so do come and join in with us.

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All Saints Church

From the Vicar,
James Grainger-Smith



Resurrection

One of the big questions many folk have about the Resurrection of Jesus is "If Resurrection is something that happens, why don't we see it happening today?"

In her book, "This Risen Existence" theologian and Lay Reader, Paula Gooder, shares the following thoughts.

"Not every Jew in the 1st century believed in life after death but many of those who did, believed in a bodily resurrection that would happen at a dramatic moment in the future - when God would intervene in the world and bring in His kingdom. It was, they believed, at this point that the dead would be raised and a time of peace and prosperity would begin. The resurrection would herald a new world order. To a lot of Jews living at the time of Jesus, believing that any resurrection had happened would have meant believing that the end times, with its time of peace and prosperity had already started.

No wonder, then, the earliest disciples struggled to get their heads around Jesus' resurrection. Jesus had risen from the dead but no one else had. Jesus had risen from the dead but the world was, apparently, no different from the way it had been before. The Romans still occupied Palestine, the poor were still poor.

A lot of the New Testament writers made sense of this by seeing Jesus' resurrection as the end times beginning, but not coming to completion. New creation springing forth but still waiting for fulfilment. In the BBC drama "The Second Coming" one character describes an event as happening "on Thursday evening - and there's a great big chunk of Tuesday in the middle." Odd though this may sound this is possibly one of the best descriptions of the displacement of time that took place at Jesus' resurrection. Jesus' resurrection was a slice of end times occurring about 2,000 years ago. The event of resurrection allows us to experience a slice of end times now.

As a result, the world is as it always was, with its wars, heartache, poverty and oppressions but with glimmers of end time perfection. In the midst of conflict and aggression we can, from time to time, see moments of reconciliation and compassion.

When the parent of a murdered child forgives the killers, or a community stands against the gangs that terrorise it and make it a better place, or when we rise above the petty arguments that spoil our human relationships, these are all, for me, a slice of the end times now. Some are dramatic world-changing occasions, others are small and apparently insignificant. Some affect whole nations and continents, others one or two individuals.

The occasions may only be momentary and we quickly move back into the harsh reality of the everyday, but their effects linger, suggesting that new creation is possible and that transformation can happen.

Belief in the resurrection is an act of rebellion against the evil, corruption and oppression that can so easily swamp us. Believing in the resurrection can be a refusal to accept that the world is as it is, that it can never change and that we must accept it. Believing in the resurrection allows us to see the world with a long view, a perspective that looks backwards to Jesus' resurrection and forwards to the end times, recognising traces of resurrection and end times in what is happening now. Believing in resurrection can transform not only how we view the world, but how we live in it. Resurrection makes a difference not only to Jesus and the earliest disciples - but also to us, as we live out our lives day by day.

I hope you experience some new life this Easter - and do keep saying your prayers!

Who's Who at All Saints Marsworth



Vicar: Rev James Grainger-Smith 01296 297915
j.grainger-smith@sky.com

Churchwardens:
Neil Kennedy 01296 660973 n.kennedy@btinternet.com
Richard Hares 01296 663652 rfhares@aol.com

PCC members:
Ken Longhurst 01296 660711 k.c.longhurst@talk21.com
Gavin Merrylees 01296 668046 gavin.merrylees@gmail.com
John White 01296 662252 horse.71shoe@sky.com
Gill White 01296 662252 horse.71shoe@sky.com
Jenny Sheils 01296 668230 sheils.j@btinternet.com (Treasurer)
Ruth Monks 07751 430323 ruthmonks@btinternet.com

Church flowers:
Gill White 01296 662252 horse.71shoe@sky.com

Bellringers tower captain:
Richard Booth 07850 038197 rbooth.maffers@talktalk.net

Choir: Neil Gurney 07732 721953

Food Bank: Richard Cooper 01296 661725
richard.bennettcooper@outlook.com

Church mowing: Gavin Merrylees 01296 668046
gavin.merrylees@gmail.com

Church cleaning: Elsie Beesley 01296 668492
elsiebeesley@aol.com

April Services for Marsworth (at All Saints' Church unless otherwise stated)

01 April	8.00pm	Holy Week Night Prayer (Compline)
02 April	8.00pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at Ivinghoe
03 April	2.00pm	Hour of the Cross Reflection
05 April	8.00am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion
12 April	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
19 April	9.15am	Holy Communion
26 April	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)

Marsworth Jumble Sale

At Millennium Hall
Saturday 11th April 1.00pm

Beacon Villages Community Library

Run by the community for the community

Opening hours

Tuesday - Friday 2 - 5pm
Saturday 10am - 1pm

Website: www.bvcl.org.uk
General enquiries: info@bvcl.org.uk
01296 387890

Committee enquiries: secretary@bvcl.org.uk
See our Facebook page for latest news - Beacon villages community library.



Parish Council Meeting

Precis March 2026



For full Minutes of all meetings, future agendas and other information go to: www.marsworth.org.uk/marsworth-parish-council/meetings-minutes-agenda-dates.

Parish Clerk's Report following the Marsworth Parish Council (MPC) Parish meeting held on 9th March 2026.

New AV Equipment at the Village Hall

This was demonstrated admirably by the Village Hall Committee Chair, Iain, Puddephatt, on Monday evening when around 50 residents joined in the public participation regarding the proposed sites within the Local Plan.

From the new large screen; to being able to display the interactive map of locations; and to the new projector - we think everyone found the evening helpful.

IT Support from Andrew Lewis

Marsworth Parish Council is going through an IT transition over the next few months as part of new Government requirements. The Parish Councillors placed on record their sincere thanks to Andrew Lewis – who is an IT Consultant living in the village – who has gone above and beyond to support the Council with the many issues encountered.

Consultation on Buckinghamshire's Local Plan Have Your Say

The Consultation has now closed with a further update and review from Buckinghamshire Council in July. See the article on page 10 about the public participation at the Parish meeting. Please also find MPC's submission to the Planning Officer on page 11.

Lighting in Marsworth

The new LED lighting should be installed by the end of March, including Heritage style lamps outside the village school, Old School House, the Church and the Red Lion. The LED lighting will significantly reduce running and maintenance costs.

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

There is a vacancy for a parish councillor. Interested candidates should come forward for consideration by emailing the Parish Clerk by Monday 6th April 2026. See notice on page six.

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 13th April

The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Monday 13th April in the Village Hall. Please see notice on page 5. Please do join us from 6.15pm for a reception with beer, wine and nibbles and an opportunity to chat with councillors and Thames Valley Police.

The formal meeting will start at 7.00pm followed by a talk at 7.30pm by the General Manager, National Trust about changes at Ashridge entitled 'Protecting our Roots'.

Parish Clerk's new email address

To comply with new Government accessibility requirements, Marsworth Parish must move to a .gov.uk domain. A new website is currently under construction, and the Parish Clerk now has a new email address: clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk

Next MPC Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 13th April at 8.00 pm, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting, doors open 6.15pm. Any items for the agenda need to be submitted to the Parish Clerk by Monday 6th April.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting, but please let the Parish Clerk know in advance if you intend to be present clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk

Hall Cleaner Role

Marsworth Village Hall is looking for a reliable part-time cleaner.

The hours are Mondays and Wednesdays
3.30pm–5.30pm

Contact Iain Puddephatt: marsworthvillagehall@gmail.com

Marsworth Charity Trustees Wanted



The Marsworth Charity was established in 1986 to manage a small parcel of land know as Gravel Pit Meadow and to use the income generated from it for charitable purposes for the inhabitants of the parish of Marsworth.

The charity is run by a small group of trustees, two of which represent the parishioners of Marsworth, other trustees represent the Church, the Village School and the Parish Council. A meeting of the trustees is usually held once a year, the post is not onerous and the post is held for three years before new trustees are elected.

An election for one of the two parish trustees will take place at the Marsworth Annual Parish Meeting on 3th April 2024 at 7pm at the Village Hall, following the resignation of the present incumbent.

If you would like to stand for the Trustee position, or if you would like to nominate someone, please notify the Parish Clerk in advance: clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk

Further details about the Annual Parish meeting can be found on the village website:

<https://www.marsworth.org.uk/marsworth-parish-council/annual-parish-meeting/>

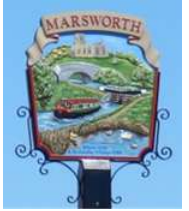
Marsworth Parish Councillors

Bob Kennedy (Chair)	07962 002250
Giles Monks (Vice-Chair)	01296 662104
Christine King	01296 660019
Ray Brown	01296 661211
Robert John	07768 004337
Steve Smith	07753 744437
Caroline Smith (Parish Clerk)	
Email: clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk	

Next Parish Council meeting

Monday 13th April at 8.00pm in the Village Hall, programme starting from 6.15pm (see page 5 for more details)

Marsworth Parish Council Notice



The Marsworth Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 13 April 2026 at 7.00pm in the Main Hall at the Millennium Hall, Marsworth.

Programme:

- 6.15pm - 7.00pm Thames Valley Police will be available to speak to residents about village concerns
Refreshments; wine, beer and fruit juice
- 7.00pm - 7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting
- 7.30pm - 8.00pm 'Protecting our Roots' at Ashridge Estate; An overview by Paul Miller, National Trust

All residents welcome

The meeting is open to all parishioners and the Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to meet with residents to address matters of concern and to support local organisations.

Reports from local organisations in summary form, are available in this edition of the Marsworth News and in full on the parish website. Parishioners will have the opportunity to talk to members of Marsworth Parish Council.

Please let the Parish Clerk know if you will be attending the meeting: clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk

Wanted – can you help?

Marsworth News is distributed monthly (omitting January and August) by our amazing team of volunteers. We have a temporary vacancy for a volunteer distributor for Norvic Road comprising 19 houses.

Please contact the Parish Clerk clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk or call her on 07557 289049 if you would like to know more or to volunteer.

Have your Say

We'd really value your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to shape Marsworth News.

Please complete our short survey by scanning the QR code, or send us your suggestions directly to the inbox:

editor@marsworthnews.co.uk



MARSWORTH
STEAM & CLASSIC
Vehicle Rally

Sunday 21st June

We're looking for enthusiastic people to help on the day. Could you spare a few hours?

will you HELP?

See the website for further details:
www.MarsworthSteamRally.co.uk

Potter's Corner

Jobs for April

- Feed plants and soil
- Sow hardy vegetables outdoors. Sow crops like carrots, lettuce, beetroot, and peas directly into prepared soil as it warms.
- Lawn care and repair. Mow regularly, repair bare patches, rake out thatch, and lightly scarify to encourage healthy growth.
- Lightly prune evergreen shrubs and hedges, checking first for nesting birds to protect wildlife.
- Begin planting gladioli, dahlias, and other summer performers.
- Support wildlife and pollinators.
- Leave some areas less disturbed, avoid disturbing nests, and consider "No Mow May" approaches to help insects.
- Prepare for summer. Install water butts, check tools, and prepare beds and systems to cope with warmer, drier months ahead.

Marsworth Ladies

by Chris King

Our March meeting was eagerly awaited, certainly by me, because our speaker Ian Scott-Hunter would be giving a talk on the Memoirs of a Royal Footman. Ian arrived with his wife just as the installation of the new media suite for the Village Hall had been completed, but a minor glitch on the day meant that Ian was not able to use the microphone, only the big screen which enabled us to clearly see his photos.

Ian started his talk by telling us that he, his wife and baby daughter moved to London from Scotland – his seriously ill daughter needed to be cared for by Great Ormond Street Hospital. He needed a job in London and applied to be a butler for Prince Philip. That job was filled but he was offered the post of a footman, which he took gratefully.

His talk was marvellously entertaining, lots of interesting information about etiquette, how tables were laid ready for dinner: how complex this looks! All the various duties that a footman would undertake were discussed, all the different uniforms they wear for specific occasions, especially when they travelled to other Royal Households and abroad on the Royal Yacht Britannia, you would need a good memory!

He talked about the Royal Family in general terms as you would expect, but I notice he never once resorted to gossip about any of them. A true gentleman. A thoroughly enjoyable and informative talk. Ian's talk was followed by delicious cake and tea, well done the ladies who provided this.

The Book Club read *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri some time ago and thoroughly enjoyed the book, so when we realised that the play of the same name was being performed at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, we obviously had to book tickets! There were surprisingly few people in the audience so more of us were able to sit in the same area. Very well acted, this is a harrowing story about people from Aleppo, Syria who fearing for their lives, decide to escape and try to reach our shores, where they would be safe.

Although the Syrian Civil War was about ten years ago, these problems remain a very emotive and topical subject. Who could fail to be moved by the plight of these refugees?

Our Craft Club was entertaining, Niki had been scouring her garden for suitable stones for us all to decorate. We're just hoping Martin doesn't see some of them missing from the garden pots.

Supper Club was held at The Valiant Trooper in Aldbury. It was nice to visit this old pub after so many years and, although it was a little bit pricier than we usually go for, it was very nice and the chatty evening along with the food was enjoyed by everyone.

Our next Meeting in April should be interesting, Lisa Tervit is organising a craft evening. This should be great fun, although not sure what we will be making. Our meetings are always fun, we have great speakers and it's so nice to be amongst friends having a cuppa and a natter.

All are welcome.



My Health, My Responsibility

Healthwatch Bucks want to find out how much people feel is their responsibility to look after their own health and wellbeing, and what they think is the responsibility of the NHS.

The NHS 10 Year Health Plan for England: fit for the future aims to "reinvent the NHS through 3 radical shifts". One of these is 'From Sickness to Prevention'.

Project Manager, Alison Holloway says: "We know that people are busy and keeping themselves healthy, or seeking help for health issues isn't always a priority. However, it is always better to prevent people getting unwell rather than having to make people well again."

We want to know if people are aware of resources available already to help them keep as healthy as possible. We also want to understand what would help people in Bucks become better active participants/agents in their own care. They would also like to have small group discussions with 6 to 12 people, especially if you're not comfortable using a computer to fill out our survey. Please call us on 01494 324832 if you would be interested in hosting a group to talk about this subject.

Healthwatch Bucks will produce a report and a set of recommendations to inform those who are involved with public health in Bucks.

Zoe McIntosh, Chief Executive of Healthwatch Bucks, says: "We want to make sure local people have the information they need to prevent ill-health, where they can, and access care services when they need them. We will share what we learn so we can work with providers of health services to make improvements where it's needed."

They would like people to share their feedback in confidence via their online survey on their website bit.ly/4rbs6YZ or via this QR code.

The survey closes on 31st May.



Marsworth Parish Council Vacancy

www.marsworth.org.uk

Mrs Caroline Smith, 7 Stepnells, Marsworth, Tring, HP23 4NQ 07557 289049

Councillor Vacancy

Are you interested in your local community?

Would you like to put something back into your local community?

As a result of the resignation of Helen Gracie from the Parish Council there is a vacancy for a councillor.

Interested candidates should come forward for consideration by emailing the Parish Clerk by Monday 6 April 2026.

Parish Clerk email: clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk

The matter will be determined at the Parish Council meeting to be held at 8pm on Monday 13 April

Millennium Hall at Marsworth.

For further details please talk to any of the Councillors or see the parish website:

<https://www.marsworth.org.uk/marsworth-parish-council/being-a-councillor>

Marsworth Village Hall 100 Club



Stephanie Hurley

The Marsworth 100 Club, is a community club set up to help raise funds towards the Marsworth Millennium Hall. It is open to all Marsworth residents over the age of 18, and is not restricted to any number of entries per household/person. We currently have 180 entries.

It is £20 for the year which starts from September through to the August. Every month there are five draws of £20, plus in April, August and December there are extra draws of two £100 and two £50 wins.

Notices are put up on the notice boards in the village as well as in the Marsworth news and the new village hall web page, as to when renewal is due, as well as volunteers whom knock on previous entrants doors.

Please note that there is now a new account if you want to set up a Standing Order:

Marsworth Social Centre
23-05-80
5713327

Whether you are new to the village or an existing resident, please do join us. It's a great way to be included in a community organisation that puts back into the village.

If you would like any further information please contact me at hurleys16@icloud.com

Red Lion Gets Go-Ahead for Repairs

By Kate Andrew



The Red Lion pub, Marsworth, which was badly damaged in a fire last May but has remained open, has at last been given planning permission for repairs.

Co-manager Mandy Oxley says: "Obviously, we are very excited about the news. We do not have a start date yet but local company Prism Construction has the contract, so that is amazing."

Prism, owned by Nick Webb, has been restoring and converting the former White Lion, Marsworth. The permission is for listed building consent for internal and external repairs including roof and ceiling repairs, commercial kitchen repairs and replacement internal finishes and redecorations.



The Red Lion

Open Gardens 2026
in aid of
Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity

If you'd be willing to share your beautiful garden with others and raise funds for local hospice care, get in touch to find out more.

email fundraising@fnhospice.org.uk
call 01296 429975

Bridge Club at Marsworth

New members welcome. Come and join us. First and third Mondays of the month at 1.30pm in the Mike Frost (upstairs) room at the Village Hall.

Contact: Mike Mullally
zen40567@gmail.com or 07984

MARSWORTH 10K

Marsworth 10K Fun Run

Sunday 10 May 2026
10am start at the Recreation Ground

Check the website for further details:
www.marsworthfunrun.co.uk

Registration is open now!

Raising funds for All Saints Church

Not a runner? If you'd like to volunteer to help at the event please email Sofie at sofiecole@btinternet.com

Upcoming Events and Activities

April

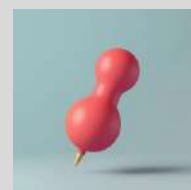


If you would like to share a village event or activity in the calendar,
please contact: editor@marsworthnews.co.uk

Wed 01	Howe & Co Fish and Chips 6.25pm - 6.45pm 07753 223959 Holy Week Night Prayer (Compline) 8.00pm All Saints Church Food and general waste collection
Thu 02	Book Club and book signing with Sue Wright 1.30pm - 3.00pm, The Red Lion
Fri 03	Howe & Co Fish and Chips Lunch time. 07753 223959 Hour of the Cross Reflection, 2.00pm All Saints Church Be Thai food van, 5.00pm - 9.00pm The Red Lion
Sun 05	Easter Sunday Holy Communion, 8.00am All Saints Church
Tue 07	Howe & Co Fish and Chips 6.25pm - 6.45pm 07753 223959
Wed 08	Charity Quiz Night - Hector's House, 7.30pm The Red Lion Food and mixed recycling collection
Fri 10	Howe & Co Fish and Chips Lunch time. 07753 223959 Crazy Bird food van, 5.00pm - 9.00pm, The Red Lion Moving Giants - Remembrance Statues leave Waddesden Manor 11.30am - 1.30pm
Sat 11	Jumble Sale from 1.00pm, Millennium Hall
Sun 12	Holy Communion (BCP), 8.30am All Saints Church
Mon 13	Marsworth Annual Parish Meeting (page 5) 6.15pm - 8.00pm, Millennium Hall
Tue 14	Howe & Co Fish and Chips 6.25pm - 6.45pm 07753 223959
Wed 15	Food and general waste collection

Thu 16	Open Folk music. 7.30pm - 10.00pm, The Red Lion
Fri 17	Howe & Co Fish and Chips Lunch time. 07753 223959 Indian Street food van, 5.00pm - 9.00pm The Red Lion
Sat 18	Souvlaki food van, 5.00pm - 9.00pm, The Red Lion Table Top Sale for Guidedogs for the Blind 1pm - 4pm Marsworth Village Hall
Sun 19	Holy Communion, 9.15am All Saints Church
Tue 21	Howe & Co Fish and Chips 6.25pm - 6.45pm 07753 223959
Wed 22	Food and mixed recycling collection
Fri 24	Howe & Co Fish and Chips Lunch time. 07753 223959 Dough with the Flow food van, 5.00pm - 9.00pm, The Red Lion
Sat 25	Repair Cafe 9.30am - 12.30pm Pitstone Pavilion
Sun 26	Evensong (BCP), 6.00pm All Saints Church
Tue 28	Howe & Co Fish and Chips 6.25pm - 6.45pm 07753 223959
Wed 29	Food and general waste collection
Thu 30	Book Club. The Red Lion 1.30pm - 3.00pm

Pin me to
your fridge!



Marsworth Neighbourhood Watch

Linda Beardsley



Potholes: A Persistent Problem

Potholes are a familiar and multiplying nuisance for many road users across Britain, often appearing after bouts of wet weather and fluctuating temperatures. These depressions in the road surface are caused primarily by water seeping into cracks, which then expands as it freezes, breaking apart the tarmac and leading to hazardous driving conditions.

Not only do potholes pose a risk to vehicles - damaging tyres, suspension and even causing accidents - but they also create challenges and danger for cyclists and pedestrians. There is a dedicated website for potholes, www.potholeuk.com.

Who is responsible for road maintenance?

- National Highways is responsible for motorways and major A-roads. These are the big national routes that carry most long-distance and heavy-goods traffic.
- Local authorities (county councils, unitary authorities, metropolitan boroughs, London boroughs) manage all other roads - including local A-roads, B-roads, and residential streets. They have a legal duty to maintain their sections under the Highways Act 1980.
- Transport for London (TfL) manages major roads within Greater London.

How to Report a Pothole

If you spot a pothole on a public road in your area, it's important to report it to your local council so it can be repaired promptly. Please do not assume someone else has. Use either www.gov.uk/report-pothole, input your postcode, the website then directs you to the relevant Council or use www.fixmystreet.com, which records the details and passes the issue to the correct highway team on your behalf.

Fixmystreet is an independent website built by the charity mySociety. It not only covers potholes, but any issues with your locality like graffiti, dumped items or things that are dirty, damaged or broken.

Give as much information as possible, including the street name, nearby landmarks, and the exact position on the road. Fixmystreet use a map and what3words is helpful. Photos are useful and the approximate size of the hole including depth, if safe to measure, will be needed. Once reported, you may receive a reference number to track your report.



Image of car driving over potholes. Image courtesy of Dreamstime.com

Why Proper Reporting Matters

UK councils receive hundreds of thousands of pothole reports. A vague complaint like "there's a hole on my road" gives the highway authority nothing to work with and importantly no legal obligation to respond urgently.

A detailed, well-evidenced report is different. It creates a legal paper trail and public record under the Highways Act 1980. Once a council has been formally notified of a specific hazard with evidence, they can no longer rely on the "Section 58 defence" - the claim that they didn't know about the defect. This can be helpful for any compensation claim if your vehicle is damaged.

Marsworth Village Hall

Progress and Community Spirit

Iain Puddephatt

The current Marsworth Village Hall was built in 1999, replacing a wonderful but sadly time-expired Rothschild building that had served the village for many years. The Hall is owned by Marsworth Parish Council but is run by the Marsworth Village Hall charity committee, of which I'm proud to be the Chair. Last June, Dick Brake retired after many years of dedicated service as Chair. Dick gave an enormous amount of time and energy to the Hall. Being voted into the role after him is a privilege.



Over the past few months, we have seen changes in the roles of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Chair, but I'm pleased to say we continue to have a strong and committed committee of 12 volunteers. The Hall is a registered charity run entirely by local people, and it simply wouldn't function without their hard work behind the scenes.

Funding for the Hall comes primarily from hall hire, alongside valuable support from the Parish Council primarily through grants and Section 106 funding. Over the past year we've made several important improvements. The heating system has been enhanced, making the Hall more comfortable throughout the year.

We've also installed a new media system, including a large projector screen and sound system in the main hall, TV monitors in the Committee Room and Mike Frost Room, and Wi-Fi throughout the building. These upgrades make the Hall more versatile for parties, meetings, film nights and presentations.

We've also launched a brand-new website (expertly built by James Kennedy) which showcases the facilities available at the Hall, includes a little of its history, and provides an easy-to-use online booking system.

Fundraising continues through the events we organise. Recently we asked residents via a questionnaire what they would like to see happening at the Hall, and we're now exploring how we can bring some of those ideas to life. We'll be sharing details of upcoming events in future editions of the newsletter and on the Hall website.

Steph Hurley continues to run the popular 100 Club, which enjoys strong support from the village. Our Firework Event last November was another great success, raising over £5,000 (after expenses) for the Hall, which is a fantastic result and a real demonstration of community spirit. And, as anyone who attended will know, Paul Rance certainly knows how to put on a spectacular fireworks display!

Looking ahead, subject to funding, we hope to introduce new curtains for the main hall, carry out exterior decoration and landscaping improvements, enhance the lighting, and install an electronic entry system with added security.

If you would like to join the committee, support the 100 Club, help at events, or hire the Hall, we'd love to hear from you. You can find booking information and updates on our website: <https://www.marsworthvillagehall.co.uk>, or contact us directly at: marsworthvillagehall@gmail.com

The Stepnells Development

Public Participation notes

The Marsworth Parish Council Chairman welcomed residents to the meeting and gave a brief explanation of how the choice of sites had been nominated. Following a top down Government decision there had been a call for sites by Buckinghamshire Council; the Airfield, a small piece of land at White Lion Bridge and a piece of land north of Stepnells were nominated. The first two were deemed unsuitable by Buckinghamshire Council, but Stepnells is listed as a potential site for development. The land is owned by the Oxford Diocese and the policy of the Church is to sell the land.

A large area around Cheddington has been nominated, this could have as many as 10,000 additional houses. This would significantly impact nearby villages in the Ivinghoe Ward. 2 years ago the number of houses required in the Local Plan in Buckinghamshire was 65,000, but that number has now increased to 95,000 by 2047 - so a 50% uplift spread across the next 20 years. The previous scheme had meant a 10% increase, typically 30 houses for Marsworth. A previous application in the early 2000s near Stepnells for 40 houses was turned down, this plan is now for 90.

Concerns with proposed development

Transport and Traffic

Access to the proposed new development would be limited with only one road in and out onto Lower Icknield Way. A roundabout would be required just opposite College Farm. There would be a risk for cars coming over the brow of the hill at speed. It could be possible for egress to be through Stepnells and/or the Crescent but this would cause an increase in traffic on these quiet residential roads and on to Vicarage Road which was to be avoided. If implemented another new roundabout at the Lower Icknield Way / Vicarage Road junction would also be needed.

The planned 90 new homes could be expected to double traffic along the Lower Icknield Way from c.1M each way per year to around 2M. To put into context, the 13 houses built at Marsworth Wharf led to circa 80-90 traffic movements a day in Church Lane. Traffic heading to Tring would either route via the White Lion Bridge, a bottle neck with traffic lights, or via Pitstone / Castlemead - causing increased traffic congestion in this direction. Traffic heading to Aylesbury would add to congestion at the White Lion Bridge.

There is no public transport link to Tring Station: there is not a direct bus connection to Tring Station from Marsworth. The car park at Tring station is full by 8.00 am on working days, and the planned Grove Fields and other development in Tring increasing housing by 2,290 will make this worse. Cheddington Station is not an option with the proposed 10,000 development, too few trains, no disabled access and limited parking and little scope for improvements.

Schooling

Marsworth school has some space but only takes children for the first three years after which they would have to move to other primary schools and Brookmead School in Pitstone is full. Cottlesloe is over-subscribed and secondary schools in Aylesbury are currently full and with all the new development around Aylesbury will soon become oversubscribed. Not all Marsworth children were able to get a local secondary school place this year.

The likely residents of a new Stepnells development would be young families wanting school facilities and other amenities - which do not currently exist in the village.

Other Infrastructure Issues

Marsworth is a 'small village', it does not have any medical facilities, no shops, only a small early years' school, and secondary schoolchildren need to catch a school bus to Tring or Aylesbury. Very limited public transport, no rail connections, doctors and dentists are very full in Tring.

The sewerage system (both locally and regionally) can only just cope with the current population and planned extra homes will need a major upgrade.



The water pressure in the village is already very low and would also need a major upgrade. The Fire Brigade have had to use the canal in Marsworth twice in the last 5 years due to low water pressure.

Environment

Without only one egress on to the new development, this would create a dense community at one end of the village with little access to or integration with the village community. Residents had moved to Marsworth because they wanted a village environment.

Existing houses in The Crescent and Stepnells are standard 2 storey detached and semi-detached dwellings. The Buckinghamshire Councillors have advised that it was quite possible that the new-build houses could be 2.5 storeys high with dormer windows in the rooves. These would be quite out of character, increasing the lack of a sense of community with the rest of the village.

The site is within the Beechwood Special Area of Conservation around Ashridge. Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) will have to be found. The site is very close to the Chilterns National Landscape (ex-AONB) and the Marsworth Reservoirs SSSI. 90 new houses would detract from the view from and amenity value of these areas.

The fields are currently productive, quality farmland that supports breeding skylarks (on the endangered Red List), They also support populations of small deer, bats, foxes, badgers, and provide feeding grounds for migrating geese. The adjacent woodland provides roosts for starling murmurations and a significant population of jackdaws.

This development is not perceived to bring any advantage to the village of Marsworth.

Representations had been made to the Parochial Church Council but they want to sell the land if a developer is found.

Important to consider the following, if this plan goes ahead:

- Roads and bridges would need widening
- The need for additional footpaths, and where on bridges the need to widen existing infrastructure
- A New Play area for children within the new development
- An Environment Impact Assessment
- A Sustainable Transport plan - Public transport to the station is essential if the development is to be sustainable and with enhanced bus services to Tring town, Tring Station and Aylesbury as a minimum.

All details and links on the Marsworth website
<https://www.marsworth.org.uk/planning-matters>



Public participation event, Monday 9 March - Caroline Smith

Marsworth Parish Council submission to Buckinghamshire Council on the Local Plan



Following the Marsworth Parish Council meeting on 9th April where around 50 residents came to express their views on the proposed development of 90 houses at Stepnells and proposed developments in nearby parishes - Marsworth Parish Council submitted the following response to Buckinghamshire Council.

The Overall Plan

The imposition of a 95,000 housing target (compared to the previous 65,000) is a huge burden for Bucks. From its current population of 500,000 (excl MK) this would be an increase of over 50%, with an enormous impact on its limited road network, and infrastructure. Since most of the growth is in the north and centre of the county the impact is even greater there. The stated policy of focusing major development around Rail Stations ignores the facts that the West Coast Line is at capacity and both the Aylesbury and Haddenham lines are very slow for London access. Following this logic the obvious station for development would be on HS2 around the point where it meets the East-West Cambridge - Oxford Line similar to Ebbsfleet and Ashford on HS1.

Ivinghoe Ward

Most villages in this ward are small and recognised under previous policy as unsuitable for large scale development. That logic remains unchanged although the plan policy isn't.

The ward has no A roads, let alone dual carriageways, and is served by several 230 year old narrow canal bridges, many of which are listed. These will cause severe disruption when they inevitably fail or need replacement and any plan must allow for this. The level of construction activity the plan envisages will add a huge number of HGVs over those bridges and local roads at a time when the Council's declared strategy for the area is to eliminate HGVs over 7.5 tonnes. If the planned expansion goes ahead then the B488 must have a bypass around Horton to ease traffic flows there.

The area already faces a severe lack of schools, dentists, doctors and public transport, now exacerbated by large scale development proposed for nearby Tring in Hertfordshire where many ward residents currently rely on services.

The selection of Cheddington as a new town site has numerous flaws. The railway station is small, has no disabled access, very little parking and is believed to be at its passenger capacity limit with no scope for expansion because of the track limitations. Before basing a plan that treats its station as the core reason for massive expansion the Rail authorities must confirm that there will be the funding, technical capability and space to allow for its expansion to cope with all the expected additional housing, or such growth must be limited to what the station can accommodate.

Such growth will also cause a significant increase in use of Tring station where the car park is already fully used, this will be on top of growth from Tring's own expansion. Rail authorities must again confirm car park expansion is possible to accommodate the planned growth.

There is only one bridge across the rail line at Cheddington which is single lane, traffic light controlled. It makes no sense to allow significant development on the east side of that bridge which would become severely congested and dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists trying to access the station or other village facilities.

The whole area suffers from inadequate sewerage and water supply. The water and sewerage providers must confirm they can and will meet all additional housing growth before such growth is included in the plan.

The road to the south of Cheddington is constrained by a canal bridge and ends in a dangerous T junction where it meets the B489 on the west side of the railway bridge in Marsworth. The road to the west of Cheddington goes through a very restricted crossroads in Long Marston which is

entirely unsuitable for HGVs, The eastern exit is via a single lane traffic controlled bridge. The access roads to the area are entirely unsuitable for volume growth.

The area is close to the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC which makes it subject to a development restriction and the SANG proposed to relieve this will not be available soon – will it have the capacity to deal with all housing planned around it?

Marsworth Parish

We are thankful that the airfield site is not considered suitable for inclusion in the plan and also that the land above the pipeline east of the canal at the White Lion bridge is excluded.

However there are several issues regarding the selected area above Stepnells:

- Marsworth is a 'small' village with few facilities, 80-90 houses would represent a huge growth for a village of currently only 300 dwellings, previous indications were that we would receive a 10% figure.
- Neither Stepnells nor The Crescent are suitable for a large increase in vehicle movements therefore some new access from the B489 would be required. There is a significant risk from speeding traffic coming over the hill from Pitstone approaching any new junction.
- Recent slow growth in the village (eg Marsworth Wharf) has not been accompanied by any increase in services. The whole village is troubled by very low water pressure; in two recent fires the Fire Brigade had to use canal water instead of mains hydrants to quench fires.
- Also the whole village suffers from sewerage disruption and the current system is clearly unable to take more.
- Nearby senior schools are already at full capacity with children having to travel further.
- The field in question is home to nesting skylarks, and to harvest mice (both on the Red List) in addition to bats, small deer and badgers. Adjacent trees are where many starlings roost after the famous murmurations over the village and reservoirs.
- The field is productive arable farmland at a time when food prices and availability are becoming a serious issue, whereas there is nearby grey land which is unproductive.

If the Local Plan is Implemented it is possible that government targets will be moderated if the current government loses office, so a plan which meets the current challenge but which can avoid longer term damage is the way to go.

There must be a confirmed acceptance by the Rail authorities that they can and will deliver the upgrade needed to both Cheddington and Tring Railway Stations and the West Coast Rail Network for the extra volume of people planned.

Thames and Anglian Water Authorities must confirm they can and will handle the increased water and sewage demands expected. Additional schools, dentists, doctors and other essential facilities must be ensured in the plan. Roads must be upgraded to handle the increased expected traffic volumes - roundabouts for dangerous junctions, footbridges alongside canal bridges, bridge widening and strengthening.

The current lack of public transport in the village results in a lot of car use. To encourage a sustainable solution an integrated public transport plan for the ward must be developed to allow for easier and more frequent movement to stations, schools, other essential facilities and shops. Any new development must be subject to a full Environmental Impact Assessment, planting a few new saplings will not increase the biodiversity of these currently diverse rural locations.

Local Updates

Kate Andrew

Pitstone Speed Bumps

Residents posting on Everything Pitstone are claiming that the new speed bumps are very harsh on their car suspensions. More than 33 people commented that they are 'brutal' and very noisy too.

Dr Gupta retires

Dr Gupta is retiring at the end of the month from Rothschild House Surgery. Many people have been saying online how much he will be missed.

Tring Park

There are reports on Everything Tring of dead rabbits hung in trees in Tring Park.

Some say people have put them there to get dead rabbits off the ground, so that dogs don't eat them. The rabbits are either dying of myxomatosis or Spanish liver disease, they add.

Wilstone Reservoir

Wilstone Reservoir is full of water again, after having been very low over the winter. The new steps and footpath are due to open again to walkers by the end of March, following piling work on the embankments.

The car park and most of footpath will re-open at the end of this week (27 March 2026). A small section of the footpath at the far north-east end of the reservoir will remain closed until the culvert works are completed, says Canal & River Trust.

By the end of April the Trust's engineering contractors Kier will have left site.

A small team will return for 7-10 days towards the end of June to install a pre-fabricated glass reinforced plastic (GRP) liner to strengthen and protect the culvert.

Local names and numbers

All Saints Marsworth - see Church page

Bucks Councillors for Marsworth

Chris Poll - chris.poll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Peter Brazier - peter.brazier@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Canal & River Trust

Customer Services: 03030 404040
enquiries.southeast@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Crime Stoppers

0800 555 111 / crimestoppers-uk.org

Marsworth Archive

Jonny Taylor - marswortharchive@gmail.com

Marsworth Bridge Club

Mike Mullally zen40567@gmail.com_or 07984 409035

Marsworth Craft Club

marsworthcraftclub@hotmail.com

Marsworth Infants School

Office: 01296 668440 / office@marsworth.bucks.sch.uk

Marsworth Ladies - Christine King 01296 660019

Neighbourhood Watch - MarsworthNHW@gmx.com

Parish Council - See Parish Council page

Police - Wing & District Neighbourhood Policing Team, 73 Leighton Road, Wing, LU7 0RD

To report a non-urgent crime, telephone 101 or visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/
For non-urgent enquiries, email: WingNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk.
In an emergency dial 999

Street problems - To report a problem on a street/road in Bucks e.g. potholes, signage etc:

FixMyStreet - fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk
For street lighting: clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk

Village Hall bookings - See page 2

Windmill Pre-School

Emma McEnteggart - 01296 661031
Manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk

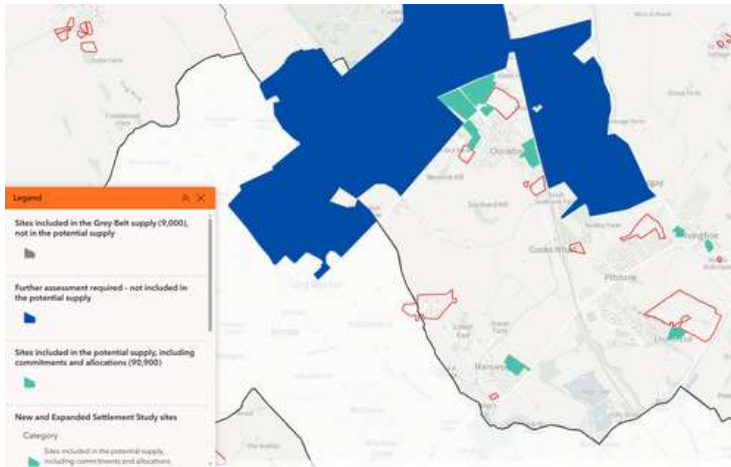
Bucks Councillors Report March 2026

*Chris Poll, Councillor for Ivinghoe ward
Chairman of East Bucks Community Board*

My report to you this month is all about the Buckinghamshire wide Local Development Plan.

We, as a planning authority are required by central government, to develop a plan for the next period, in this case 2025-2045, for housing and employment development. This will be the first of its type for Bucks as a whole, since the creation of the Unitary Authority. We have in this area an existing plan, known as the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, but as a county we do not. The "Call for sites" revealed proposals with enough land for 600,000 dwellings which does give us options. It is proposed that no development should happen within the Green Belt at all and that the new "Grey Belt" designation can be almost completely discounted.

Work has been going on by officers at Bucks Council as required by order from central government and we are now at the stage of having site specific proposals across the county. The interactive map can be viewed at:
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4551b49742e846a4a4f0dad74e08635e>



The key for the map is:

- Red outline but otherwise empty are sites which have been discounted.
- Green shaded areas would go forward unless there are good reasons to not do so.
- Blue shaded areas are due to have further analysis and may not necessarily go forward.

Under the last government it was successfully argued that this should be a needs-based assessment which had a figure of 65,000 dwellings over the plan period. Since the new government came to power in 2024 this has been changed to a central directive of 95,500 dwellings, an increase of 43%.

Disappointingly this comes with no evidence other than a desire to build more homes. Furthermore, there will be no funding from central government for infrastructure. It is suggested by those that have given this figure, that infrastructure will come from the charges to developers upon completion of individual sites or projects.

From a personal point of view, I have always argued that infrastructure should come before significant development even if costs are then reimbursed to government or local authority.

Experience teaches us that developers may agree to a certain level of funding for affordable housing, foul and fresh water connection, electricity grid and transport infrastructure, health services and education provision for example, but that too often they successfully negotiate down after the fact due to economic constraints.

To build so many new dwellings within Bucks with no infrastructure plan in place and funding secure could lead to many problems in the future.

Finally, you may have seen a letter written to Bucks Council and published by the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government appearing to reprimand Bucks Council for a lack of progress in developing its plan.

This is entirely inappropriate and inaccurate as Bucks Council are following the timetable set out by and agreed with the government.

We must however keep to this timetable as failure to do so will mean government will take over the process and this will inevitably lead to even greater numbers being required.

Buckinghamshire Council Budget Update

Stephen Broadbent, Leader, Buckinghamshire Council

I wanted to update you with the good news that we have now approved a balanced budget for the council for the coming financial year. This means we can now focus on investing in the priorities that you as residents have asked for, including ongoing investment in our roads, maintaining weekly bin collections and continuing to provide key statutory services such as social care.

Once again this year, reaching this end goal of achieving a balanced budget, as we are legally required to, has not been easy. Our task has been shaped by significant financial pressures linked to the national government's Fair Funding Review which is redirecting locally raised funds away from Buckinghamshire to other parts of the country.

As a result, we will see a reduction in funding of £44.5 million as the government diverts resources away from services here in Buckinghamshire. There is nothing fair about that in my opinion and as a council we will continue to lobby the government with regards to this new funding system.

To help safeguard essential services in the county, we will be raising basic rate of council tax by 2.99 per cent from 1 April 2026, and the Adult Social Care precept will increase by 2 per cent, meaning a total rise of 4.99%, or an extra £1.86 per week for the average Band D home during 2026/27.

Despite the financial pressures, we remain committed to delivering value for money and prioritising services that matter most to residents. We will continue to protect essential services, invest in our communities, and ensure prudent use of every pound of public money.

Local News

Kate Andrew

Tring Town of Culture bid

Tring Town Council has announced that it is submitting an Expression of Interest to become the UK Town of Culture, 2028! The town has much to offer, from a vibrant arts scene and rich heritage to passionate community groups and local events - a place where culture, creativity and community come together.

Trains

Train services will not run from Tring to London Euston and Milton Keynes over the Easter break, particularly on April 7 and 8. So do check services in advance before making plans.

Shakespeare

After seven years, the Pendley Shakespeare Festival is returning to The Dembe Theatre, with A Midsummer Night's Dream from August 12 to 16.

Marsworth Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 13 April

Similar to last year, local organisations have been invited to send in their annual reports for inclusion in Marsworth News prior to the Annual Parish Meeting on 13 April. This will give our residents the opportunity to read the reports and to come along to the Parish Meeting with any observations, questions, etc. Those not received in time will be published in the May edition. Some have been slightly shortened.

For full reports go to

<https://www.marsworth.org.uk/marsworth-parish-council/annual-parish-meeting/club-society-reports-2025/>



Marsworth Food Bank Report

Richard Cooper

The Food Bank continues to operate successfully, delivering a weekly supply of groceries, eggs, fruit, and vegetables to nine residents of Marsworth. However, its role extends far beyond food provision. Each individual receives additional care and support, including companionship during difficult times and practical help with everyday challenges.

Lisa has played a vital role as a village nurse, providing treatment such as wound care and arranging medical appointments. Support is also given with paperwork and personal matters that can be overwhelming to manage alone.

We are extremely grateful to Noble Foods Ltd for their generous donation of six dozen eggs each week, and to P E Mead & Sons for their excellent supply of fresh fruit and vegetables. Thanks are also due to Jenny Shiels and Denise Cornwall for assisting with deliveries when needed, and to Richard Hares for offering additional support.

Special appreciation goes to Jenny Shiels and All Saints Church, Marsworth, for managing our bookkeeping, enabling us to claim Gift Aid on donations. Buckinghamshire Council's Helping Hands division provides a vital six-monthly grant, our main source of funding, and we thank Caroline Smith and Jenny Shiels for handling the associated administration. We also benefit from generous donations from local residents throughout the year.

At Christmas, Helena Winter-Brown, Lisa, and I organised a lunch for nearly 60 seniors, joined by guests from Ivinghoe and Pitstone. The event included music, singing, and a raffle, supported by many generous sponsors.

We hope to reintroduce our garden afternoon teas this summer after a pause last year.

Marsworth Ladies Report

Chris King

This is the report of our first year since ceasing to be members of the Women's Institute (WI) and forming our own Marsworth Ladies. After much discussion and a vote as to whether members wanted to remain with the WI, or not, we formally closed down our association with the WI and began as Marsworth Ladies. Led by a strong committee, our group has become more relaxed without the formality of being WI Members, we have increased our social outings and events and we have welcomed quite a few new members to our group.

We continue to have excellent speakers, interspersed with a quiz and Pimm's night, a glorious tea party in a member's garden and outings organised by our excellent programme secretaries. We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Dinner at the Chiltern Forest Golf Club, which was attended by most of our members. The programme for the forthcoming year looks equally promising.

When we were part of the WI, a substantial percentage of our annual subs needed to be passed back to both National WI and Bucks WI. Now that this is no longer necessary, we are able to keep our subs to a much more affordable level. We have craft club, book club, supper club and the ladies who look after the Jubilee garden in the rec. These groups are very popular and are well attended. All in all, the transition from a WI to Marsworth Ladies, has been a huge success with very few teething problems.

Buckinghamshire Councillors' Report

This report focuses on three key areas affecting residents and businesses:

- (1) the financial position,
- (2) potholes, and
- (3) the new Local Plan.

1. Financial Position

Local government finances remain under significant pressure. Although a multi-year settlement has been introduced, overall funding for Buckinghamshire has decreased by £44.5 million. Around 74% of the council's budget is spent on statutory services, including adult social care, children's safeguarding, education and SEND, and housing.

Claims that Buckinghamshire's "core funding power" has increased by 14.1% are misleading. The correct measure - Core Spending Power (CSP) - has risen by only 8.1% over three years, compared with a national average of 15.1%. This includes council tax increases, and once inflation is considered, the real-terms increase is minimal. Without council tax rises, CSP would fall by around 5% (approximately £30 million).

Despite these challenges, growth in the council tax base from new housing has helped protect key services. As a result, the council has avoided introducing bin replacement charges, maintained gully cleansing, retained additional planning enforcement, continued weekly bin collections, increased road investment, kept recycling centres open, and preserved public toilets.

In education, government changes to SEND funding will create additional financial pressures. While central government will cover 90% of the deficit in the short term, the council must still fund the remaining share, rising to an estimated £13.7 million by 2028.

2. Potholes

Road conditions remain a concern, worsened by winter weather and freeze-thaw cycles. Government claims of £20 million for pothole repairs are misleading, as this funding is allocated to specific infrastructure projects rather than general maintenance - and is less than last year.

Despite reduced funding, the council has increased its highways budget from £100 million to £120 million. More repair crews are active, and additional resurfacing is planned. Temporary repairs are sometimes necessary in winter conditions, as permanent fixes are not always practical in wet weather. Buckinghamshire faces similar challenges to neighbouring counties under the same financial constraints.

3. Local Plan

A Local Plan is essential; without one, development would be imposed by central government. The council is working to minimise impact on the Green Belt, which will only be used as a last resort. The plan provides important protection against speculative development and helps ensure infrastructure is considered.

Government housing targets require 95,000 new homes - a 43% increase on previous needs-based figures - without corresponding infrastructure funding. This places pressure on local services such as schools, healthcare, roads, and utilities. Residents are encouraged to engage with consultations to ensure local views are represented. The council continues to work towards a plan that balances development needs with protection for Buckinghamshire's communities and environment.

Marsworth Village Hall

Iain Puddephatt - Village Hall Chairman

Introduction

This report provides a summary of activity, developments, and achievements at Marsworth Village Hall over the past year. It has been a year of significant change and steady progress, both in terms of leadership and improvements to the Hall itself.

Committee Changes and Governance

The past year has seen notable changes within the management committee. Our long-serving Chairman, Dick Brake, retired in June after many years of dedicated service to the Village Hall.

Following his retirement, Iain Puddephatt was appointed as the new Chair. Since then, there have also been changes to the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Chair. Despite these transitions, we have maintained a strong and committed core committee of circa 10 members who continue to oversee the effective running of the Hall and its activities.

Hall Usage and Bookings

Bookings have remained consistent throughout the year, reflecting the continued importance of the Hall as a community asset. We are pleased to report that many regular user groups continue to hire the Hall, including the Preschool.

Building Improvements

Over the past year, several enhancements have been made to improve both functionality and user experience. The Hall's heating system was enhanced, improving comfort and energy experience.

New Website and booking system.

A new media system was installed, consisting of:

- Large screen in the main hall with projector and integrated sound system.
- Television monitors in both the Committee Room and the Mike Frost Room.
- Wi-Fi coverage.

These upgrades have modernised the Hall's facilities and broadened its suitability for presentations, events, training sessions, and community gatherings.

Fundraising and Community Support

The Marsworth 100 Club, organised by committee member Steph, continues strongly and enjoys good support from village residents.

A major highlight of the year was the Firework Event held in November. Organised by the committee, the event was very well attended raising circa £5,000 (after expenses) for the hall charity.

Community Engagement

To better understand the needs and interests of residents, we recently distributed a questionnaire via social media seeking feedback on the types of events villagers would like to see hosted at the Hall. The response was extremely positive, with strong engagement and a range of constructive suggestions. Popular ideas included:

- A summer ball
- A hog roast or barn dance
- Quiz nights
- Coffee and chat sessions

The feedback gathered will help us develop a more tailored and relevant programme of community events for the year ahead.

Looking Ahead

While this report focuses on the past year, it is worth noting that subject to funding, we have several potential improvement projects under consideration. These include curtains for the main hall, exterior decoration, landscaping works, and the installation of an electronic entry system with security cameras.

Further updates on building projects and community events will be provided over the coming year.

Conclusion

Overall, this has been a year of transition, consolidation, and steady improvement for Marsworth Village Hall. Despite changes in leadership, the Hall remains financially stable, well-used, and supported by the local community. The committee remains committed to maintaining and enhancing this important village asset for the benefit of all residents.

Marsworth CE Infant School

Mrs Angela Polatci, Headteacher

Personnel

Since September, I have returned to full-time work. Mrs Scott continues to support KS1 for three days a week, and we welcomed Mrs Lacey, who teaches in KS1 on Fridays. In EYFS, Mrs Karen Holdsworth works three days alongside Mrs Emma Williams, who works two days.

Miss Lisa Driscoll continues in her role as School Business and Office Manager. We currently have 18 pupils on roll, with 8 in Nursery who we hope will join Reception in September. Additional support staff assist a child with specific needs while also supporting KS1 pupils. Our experienced support team continues to work across EYFS and KS1.

Group Membership

The school remains actively involved in several professional networks, including the Network Learning Community, Federation of Small Schools (FOSS), Local Authority "Side by Side" groups, SEN liaison, and the EYFS PIP group.

Refurbishment and Development

Recent improvements include a new internal entrance door and enhanced security access across the site. The EYFS environment has been reorganised to accommodate our new 3-year-old nursery provision, including both 15 and extended 15 hours funded places.

Our rebranding is now complete, with a new logo across uniforms, documents, displays, and staff materials. A new website has been launched, alongside a school Facebook page to share updates with families and the community.

Curriculum and Enrichment

We continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum. Weekly swimming for Reception and KS1, supported by Marsworth Parish Council, remains a highlight. Visitors have included Medical Detection Dogs, sports coaches, Mr Chang for Chinese New Year, and a fossil workshop led by Stephen Thompson.

We marked Remembrance with a visit to the village monument and held our Harvest service at the church. Trips to Wendover Woods enhanced learning, and KS1 will visit the Natural History Museum for a fossil workshop.

World Book Day involved costumes, storytelling, and creative activities with parents joining in. A spirituality day focused on justice and fairness, alongside a visit from MP Laura Kyrke-Smith, who praised the children's engagement.

In KS1, pupils studied the Great Fire of London and built Tudor houses. EYFS pupils explored weekly texts linked to topics such as British wildlife, alongside rhymes and communication activities.

Community and Looking Ahead

We are grateful to our volunteers who support reading, phonics, and fine motor skills. This summer, pupils will explore "Our Diverse World," learning about different cultures.

Marsworth School remains a vibrant, inclusive community where children develop curiosity, compassion, and respect. We are very thankful for the continued support of the village.

Serving the village
and parish of Marsworth

All Saints Church

Rev. James Grainger-Smith

Our parishes were greatly encouraged by Rev. Canon Dave Bull, Area Dean of Wycombe, becoming the new Bishop of Buckingham. Folk who have met Dave have been impressed with his humility, his spirituality and his positive outlook on life. With our prayers we fully expect him to become as well-liked and well-respected as his predecessor.

In our own parishes, there were the services you would expect of your Parish Church - Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas plus Sundays, Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals and Burials. Do remember that our services and events, as well as our contact details, are always available at www.achurchnearyou.com.

And there were events for the wider community. Special mention should be made of the Slapton Village Fete, the Art Exhibition at Ivinghoe Church and the resurrection of the Marsworth Flower Festival. These (and other) events were only possible because volunteers from the wider community combined with church members - all generously giving of their time and talents. Once again, I want to assure everyone that I am extremely grateful for all your hard work: it really does make a huge difference to our communities.

Talking of our communities I am conscious that planned housing developments will be a big issue for us all going forward. In the autumn, Oxford Diocese contacted Marsworth Parochial Church Council (PCC) with the news that the Diocese is looking to sell for development some of the Glebe Land on the edge of the village. The PCC discussed this proposal and came to the conclusion that to lose productive farmland and to build properties without upgrading the existing infrastructure was not a proposal we could support. The PCC voted unanimously against the proposal of the Diocese - and communicated our thinking and this decision to Oxford. However, it remains to be seen how much weight the opinion of the people on the ground actually carries.

More positively it was a very busy year for our Bell Towers. The newly-restored bells at Slapton attracted visitors from across the region - and this seemed to create a certain amount of interest in the Towers at Ivinghoe and Marsworth too. All our teams welcome new ringers so, if you fancy a go, do feel free to get in touch with the appropriate Tower Captain.

Looking Forward

People, I remain keen for our churches to work with other groups in order to make our parishes better places. I'm thankful for those partners whom we have joined with over the past year. I hope we can continue to identify shared goals and values as we move forward together.

Marsworth Steam Rally

Neil Kennedy

On Sunday 16th June 2025, Marsworth hosted another highly successful Steam and Classic Vehicle Rally. The event was officially opened at 11am by Robert Stringer from Hector's House, a Berkhamsted-based mental health and suicide prevention charity whose volunteers supported us throughout the weekend.

This year saw increased attendance, with over 300 classic vehicles applying for entry. A returning highlight was the raised viewing platform, reconfigured to give visitors a clear view of working steam-powered machinery.

We are very grateful for the continued support from Andrew and the team at Tring Brewery, whose donated ales and ciders - alongside contributions from Vale Brewery - were enjoyed by many.

The All Saints Church team once again provided an excellent selection of refreshments, including tea, coffee, cakes, and biscuits, with expanded seating allowing visitors to relax and enjoy the atmosphere.

Entertainment was provided throughout the afternoon by Pickled Tink with lively ceilidh music. The rally also featured a record number of trade stalls, caterers, and attractions set across two arenas.

A standout moment came with a spectacular Spitfire flypast from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Approaching from the reservoirs, the aircraft circled the village before flying over the event and waving its wings in farewell - an unforgettable addition we hope will return in 2026. Complementing this, a stationary Rolls Royce Merlin V12 engine, similar to those used in Spitfires and Lancaster bombers, was on display in the second arena.

We are very pleased to have been able to host another fantastic event. None of this would be possible without the guidance and leadership from our committee, and the determination of our willing volunteers and local charities who we support with the proceeds from the event.

As many of our volunteers and supporting teams are aware, preparing for and running the rally is a physical and exhausting task. The rally committee extends a huge thank you to all involved.

Thanks also to our sponsors and suppliers who support us each year. We include, of course, Marsworth Parish Council, who kindly allow us to use the recreation ground for parking on the big day and whose representatives volunteer their time and energy in support of the event.

A special mention this year, for Graham Dickinson, formerly of Marsworth. As a long-standing committee member, he's supported our event for many years and has now moved on to new ventures. We wish Graham all the very best.

Looking ahead, preparations are already underway for the next rally on Sunday 21st June 2026. Please volunteer and support us however you are able. We look forward to welcoming you all back soon.

MARSWORTH STEAM & CLASSIC Vehicle Rally

Historic Steam Engines, Agricultural, Classic Cars, Bikes and Trucks

Sunday 21st 2026 June 11am-5pm

Treat dad to a fun day out on Father's Day!



Family Entertainment, Rides and Attractions

Stalls galore!
Charity fundraising
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Live music
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www.MarsworthSteamRally.co.uk

Thames Valley Police for Marsworth

Mike Coker

It's been another busy year for Thames Valley Police. Your local neighbourhood team continues to cover a wide area that regularly presents us with a variety of interesting incidents and challenges (to put it politely!). Fortunately for the residents of Marsworth, it remains one of our quieter villages, with fewer issues than many of the surrounding areas.

Over the past 12 months, we've seen a 19% reduction in recorded crime in the Marsworth area compared with the previous year. This is an encouraging trend and a positive reflection of the community's vigilance, along with the ongoing work of the neighbourhood policing team.

I will be presenting the full crime figures, along with a detailed breakdown of the types of incidents recorded, at the Annual Parish Meeting on 13th April during the Have Your Say section from 6.15pm.

2026 TRING FAMILY FUN DAY

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Marsworth Charity

Matthew Carter, Chairman

It has been another quiet year for the Charity projects although we did make a contribution towards the 2025 Seniors Christmas lunch as in previous years.

We have made progress with the legal title and the landholding is now registered with the Land Registry. This has enabled us to negotiate with the Tenant for a sale of the freehold which will release the capital value and allow us to reinvest the proceeds into a more stable investment, give us a better return and give us a more secure and predictable income. We are about to instruct solicitors to proceed.

The Charity has a vacancy for a new Trustee and we have two nominations. We continue to be open to any requests for charitable aid which is for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the village.

Marsworth Speedwatch

Ron Busby and Stephen Wooler

In the twelve months that have passed since our last report, the activities of the Marsworth Speedwatch Group have been curtailed by three unforeseen difficulties:

- 1. The inclement weather;** It is not possible to operate in the rain and other very cold and unpleasant conditions.
- 2. The closure of the B489 whilst major works were undertaken to Wilstone reservoir.** This was helpful to traffic calming as the overall volume of vehicles passing through Marsworth dropped considerably.
- 3. Equipment issues** Marsworth Speedwatch shares equipment with other local villages and our allocation usually covers two weeks each month, but sometimes this is only one week per month. There are occasions when our allocation may be during holiday periods, inclement weather or other times when operators are not available.

In addition, the equipment is now twelve years old and components do occasionally need to be replaced.

Despite these difficulties, the few volunteer operators in Marsworth have still reported 78 vehicles to Thames Valley Police ("TVP") between April and November last year, TVP has sent letters to the owners of 76 of those vehicles.

We plan to use SID (Smiley Face) radar data to identify the best times for Speedwatch sessions. To be effective, we need more volunteers, as we currently rely on a small group. The role is simple: volunteers work in pairs to set up approved camera equipment, monitor sessions, and record traffic. Offending vehicles are automatically logged and reported to the police.

There is no fixed commitment - sessions depend on availability, shared equipment, and suitable weather. There is no direct interaction with motorists, and volunteers report positive experiences. More volunteers mean greater impact. Without them, the scheme may not continue. Please contact: ron@startops.co.uk to get involved.

Marsworth News

Zoë Card and Lynn Mildner

The newsletter has recently undergone some changes, brought about by the departure of Sandra Costello, after many years of committed service to the newsletter and the residents of Marsworth and the wider parish. New editors, Lynn Mildner and Zoë Card have been working on issues since the beginning of 2026. We couldn't have done this on our own, and have been in great company, offered lots of support and tips to ensure the quality of the publication remains enviable. Our proof-readers, contributors and distributors ensure every month that you are kept up to date with news and events that are relevant to you.

As we move into our third edition of the year, we are getting to know more of our regular contributors who between them ensure you have a bumper issue on the doorstep at the end of each month. Whether your interest is to follow local council news, the plight of the White Lion, Neighbourhood Watch updates, community events or you just like seeing the backpage photos, we certainly cover a lot. It wouldn't be possible without everyone coming together.

We are also reaching out to improve content and garner views from our readership. We feel it would be great if the newsletter was useful to everyone, so we are working on new content.

Special mention to Caroline Smith, the parish clerk, who collates key notifications from Buckinghamshire Council and other organisations via the Marsworth website, and to Kate Andrew who offers news from the village and beyond through her collated works for The Bucks Herald.

DENS Charity Castle Walk

Step up for the return of a popular walking event this summer. Hertfordshire homelessness charity, DENS, is thrilled to announce its Castle Walk fundraising event, taking place on Sunday 14th June 2026.

Walkers can choose between 5- or 10-mile routes, winding through the stunning local countryside and woodland – both starting and finishing at the iconic Berkhamsted Castle. This family-friendly event, which also welcomes dogs, has previously hosted hundreds of participants, ranging from seasoned hikers to those enjoying a peaceful stroll.



Expect a fantastic community atmosphere, breathtaking views and a finisher's token to commemorate the day. All funds raised will help DENS prevent and alleviate homelessness, poverty and social exclusion – with local services including safe accommodation, employment and skills coaching, and a foodbank.

Charlotte McCarthy, Senior Community & Events Fundraiser at DENS, said: "There's nothing quite like the Castle Walk to kickstart the summer. When our first walkers gather at the castle, there's such excitement and positivity in the air. It's always a highlight of the season for us, and we can't wait to share that energy with the community once again." There are affordable entry options are on offer, including a discounted family ticket.

To register for the Castle Walk, please visit www.dens.org.uk/walk.

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9* and 23 May

*9 May is part of Tring Family Fun Day at The Church, Churchyard and Church Square
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Standing with Giants “Bon Voyage”

Four lorries carrying the Giants, assisted by Harley-Davidson remembrance riders, will be leaving Waddesdon Manor en-route to Portsmouth where they will sail to Caen.

We would like to invite you to attend and wave off the Giants as they begin their journey. The Giants will be returning to Waddesdon Manor for full residency on Wednesday 21 October.

Bon Voyage
Friday 10 April from 11.30am to 1.00pm



Standing with Giants

Annual Plant Sale in aid of All Saints Church

In the churchyard on Saturday 23rd May from 2pm to 5pm. (If the weather is inclement we will be inside the Church)

- Teas
- Variety of plants with a few hanging baskets.
- Raffle prize of a hanging basket.

Help on the day much appreciated.
6/8inch flowerpots and empty hanging baskets

Items can be left at Horseshoe Cottage at any time.

Enquiries to John and Gill White on 01296 662252 or to Matthew Carter on 01296 662595.

Donations of plants should be brought to the churchyard on the morning of the sale, clearly marked with type.

N.B. As in previous years the sale may run over into Sunday and beyond.

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LOCATION: Ivinghoe for a few hours, one Saturday per month.



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Table Top SALE

Couch to Marathon

Samuel Watson

After barely managing two minutes of running last autumn, Samuel Watson, who grew up in Puttenham is now attempting the London Marathon for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Samuel says some readers may remember me from growing up in Puttenham. I went to Long Marston School and later Tring School, and I was involved in village life, including the occasional appearance in local pantomimes. Although I now live further away, my parents are still in Puttenham where my wife and I were married at St Mary's Church and my in-laws live in Marsworth, so the area still feels very much like home. This April I'll be attempting something that still sounds slightly ridiculous when I say it out loud. Running the London Marathon.

The unusual part is that only a few months ago I could barely run for two minutes. Back in September I was very much starting from the "couch" end of the famous couch-to-5k. At around 20 stone and with very little running experience, even short jogs were a challenge. Somewhere along the way, though, the goal quietly grew from "maybe I'll manage 5k" to "perhaps I could attempt a marathon."

Training has been a mixture of progress and aching legs. I've slowly built up from those first two-minute runs to completing my first half marathon earlier this year in Milton Keynes in 2 hours 41 minutes. Crossing that finish line felt like a huge milestone - although it was also the moment I realised the full marathon is twice that distance.

Life at home adds another layer to the challenge. My wife and I now have a lively three-year-old and a newborn baby, so many training runs happen early in the morning before the rest of the house wakes up.

I'm running the marathon in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity, helping raise funds towards their new Children's Cancer Centre, which will support children and families facing incredibly difficult circumstances.

My personal goals are fairly simple: ideally to run the whole thing, finish in under six hours, or at least just finish! Friends and family are also placing guesses on two things: my finishing time and what I might weigh when I cross the line. I'll be sure to report back afterwards. If you'd like to follow the training journey (or support the challenge), you can find updates here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SamuelMarathon>

The marathon takes place at the end of April, and donations will remain open until the end of May.

And if you happen to be watching from home, keep an eye out for a runner wearing a brightly coloured bandana and a Great Ormond Street vest - that will almost certainly be me somewhere along the route, possibly limping slightly somewhere around mile 23. Please do cheer along - every bit of encouragement helps!



Samuel Watson

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- More live events and community evenings

🌸 Easter Bookings 🌸

We expect to be busy over the Easter holidays, so please book ahead:

✉️ Email us info@wemarsworth.co.uk or reserve via our website wemarsworth.co.uk

🐣 Easter Children's Events 🐣

Monday 30th March – £14.95 per child
Easter Bonnet Decorating

Wednesday 2nd April – £9.95 per child
Easter Egg Decorating

Wednesday 8th April – £8.95 per child
Easter Shredded Cupcake Making

🎵 Sunday 12th April | 4:30–7PM

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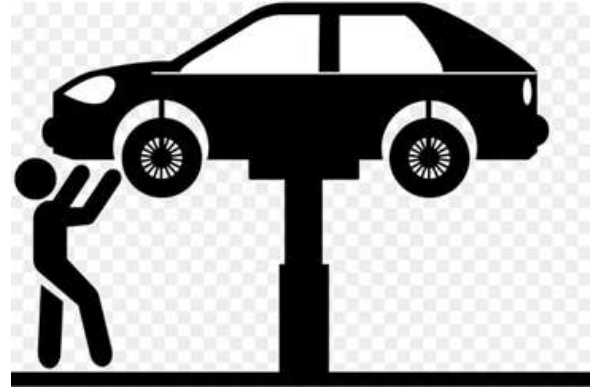
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Mower Blades Sharpened/balanced

Fault finding

Oil Changes

Carburettor Cleaning

All makes

Ride on mowers

Call Luke on 07920105208

Or email:

Goodtomowtring@outlook.com**F R JEFFERY & SON**
Coal Merchant

Coal + smokeless fuel

Kiln dried logs

Garden compost

Delivered to your door

Contact us on: 01296 661258

**MARK HENDIN****PLUMBING AND HEATING ENGINEER**

All general plumbing work undertaken

Central heating installations & repairs

Bathroom installations, etc.

NO CALL OUT FEE**NO JOB TOO SMALL OR TOO MUCH TROUBLE**

Tel: 01442 827065 / Mob: 07778 061597

HANDYGAZ

DO YOU NEED A MAN THAT CAN?

Are you looking for someone to sort all the small jobs that need doing around the home?



Let me help!

For all your property maintenance and repairs.

I can do the jobs that have needed doing for so long.

No job is too small.

Over 40 years' experience in carpentry, brickwork, plastering, etc.

Give Gary a call on 07398 172264

Based in Marsworth

You could be advertising here!

£10 for one issue

£50 for ten issues

We can help with layout and graphics.

Contact: advertising@marsworthnews.co.uk

Change lives by volunteering

Help to prevent isolation in your community by becoming a befriender today

We all need a helping hand or a listening ear from time to time, and by becoming a befriender, you can be that support for someone in need. By offering a couple of hours week to volunteer with Connection Support, you can have a real impact on someone's life.

We have different volunteer roles available, so visit our website for more information.

01296 484322

connectionsupport.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities



Ivinghoe site last inspected:
March 2024



Pre-school
Ivinghoe & Marsworth

"The children are so happy to run in everyday. that says it all!"



Windmill Pre-School are enrolling now at our

Ivinghoe and Marsworth settings!

We have TWO wonderful settings

Windmill, Marsworth takes children from 9months+–School age

Windmill, Ivinghoe takes children from two years old–School age



Ivinghoe contact:

ivinghoe@windmillpreschool.co.uk

01296 661031

Brookmead School site,
High street Ivinghoe
LU7 9EX

Funded hours

Both settings accept all funded hours
(the term after your child is eligible)

Fee paying sessions are also available from the day they can join us!

Contact Area manager, Emma on
manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk to book your tour
of either/both settings NOW!

"We are so happy with the care our children have had at Windmill Pre-School. The quality of teaching and learning here is second to none and all of the staff show a genuine happiness of their job"

Marsworth contact:

marsworth@windmillpreschool.co.uk

01296 821101

Marsworth Millennium hall,
Vicarage road, Marsworth,
HP23 4LR

"All the little extras that Windmill offer, mean the world. Our children have learnt so much during their time here and we are so sad they have to leave to go to School"

Marsworth Photo Gallery



A seasonal shot - Jeremy Whitehead



The Angler's Retreat at Night - Anon



The Reservoir in the sunshine - Lynn Mildner



Spring Blooms - Potter's Corner



A village sunset - Anon

**SHARE YOUR MOMENTS
SEND US YOUR PHOTOS**

Please send your photos to
editor@marsworthnews.co.uk



Lambs near the recreation ground - Jeremy Whitehead