

Beneath the Vale

Published on behalf of the Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council

Spring 2019: Issue 31



David Squirrell demonstrates a grafting technique at Filford Farm on a sheep damaged cider tree.

Vale is a place for grafting

Orchard expert David Squirrell from Bridport demonstrated the ancient art of apple tree grafting on a workshop at Filford Farm in March.

Grafting is a form of propagating new fruit trees using buds or twigs – the ‘scion wood’ from an existing tree – and fusing it onto a branch or stem of another tree – ‘the rootstock’. The Vale

used to have many orchards and this one-day course was part of the ‘Pylon Project’ funded by the National Grid to support environmental improvements near the power lines. It’s administered by Dorset AONB and run by Dorset Wildlife Trust. So far the project has completed 700 metres of hedge laying, planted 42 hedgerow trees and 12 orchard trees,

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Beneath the Vale is published four times a year by the Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council and posted to homes in the combined parishes of Marshwood, Stoke Abbott, Pilsdon and Bettiscombe.

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Above: David Squirrell and volunteers practise grafting. Below: some of the new trees they created.

restored five ponds and supported the early stages of a wild daffodil nursery to propagate the Vale's famous daffodils.

The project has also restored two hectares of meadow by ploughing out existing poor-quality grass and drilling it with locally sourced wild-flower meadow seeds from another nearby site.

Much of the work has been done by Dorset Wildlife Trust volunteers; up to February 2019 there were 33 volunteer sessions which equals 450 volunteer days or c.1,800 volunteer hours. The initiative continues until the end of the year.



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MP pledges to help with superfast broadband

West Dorset MP Sir Olicer Letwin has pledged to help homes on and near Cardsmill Lane to get superfast broadband.

In a meeting on 5 April he said that in 2020 the universal service obligation would come into effect, forcing providers to supply superfast speeds to properties, whatever their location.

Sir Oliver said that he was willing to help push the Vale homes affected to the top of the queue and that we might expect to get superfast broadband in about 18 months.

A35 volunteers to press for answers from PCC

The A35 group set up after a public meeting with Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner Martyn Underhill has been told by the PCC that it is no longer needed.

The group has been told that the new Pan Dorset Critical Route Emergency Road Closure Protocol renders it redundant. Chris Noon, who leads the A35 group, said: 'We are concerned that the issues raised at the public meeting and subsequently collated and explored by the A35DVG have not, nor will be, fully addressed.' Chris will be discussing his concerns with Sir Oliver Letwin. More in our next issue.



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Five candidates stand for the new Marshwood Vale ward

As hinted elsewhere in this issue, Marshwood is facing two elections on 2 May. Voting will take place in all our parishes for the new unitary council, now imaginatively called Dorset Council, a move that promises cheaper county governance.

There are five candidates representing a range of views and allegiances. Jacqui Sewell from Broadwindsor, who previously held the old district seat for the Conservatives, is now standing as an independent. The Conservative party candidate is Simon Christopher from Whitchurch Canonorum, who was previously the district councillor for the old ward of Chideock and Symondsburry. Phyllida Culpin is standing for Labour (no address given), Eddie Gerrard from Drimpton for the Liberal Democrats, while the Green Party hopeful is Simon Fairlie from Monkton Wyld.

But the surprise of the week was in nominations for the parish council election for Marshwood itself. Due to a misunderstanding, Chris Rabbetts, a Pilsdon parish representative, mistakenly put his name down for Marshwood parish. This means that six candidates have put up for Marshwood, a parish that has only five council vacancies. This has forced an election that wouldn't otherwise be needed.

The five others standing in Marshwood are Fred Bailey, Ali Cameron, Alison Edwards, Trevor Richards and Roy Warburton.

Parish council chairman Matthew Bowditch has been elected unopposed in Stoke Abbott, as has Bob Wyatt. In Pilsdon, Jane Gillingham is unopposed and in Bettiscombe John Brown and Eddie Rowe are also elected unopposed.

Our roster of Upper Marshwood Vale councillors will therefore be little altered as a whole, although we shall have two representatives fewer. This is due to the inevitable loss of one councillor through the Marshwood parish election and the fact that Cassian Gray had already stood down from Stoke Abbott parish without replacement.

Please remember to vote!

Stephen Lee
Landscape Gardening
1 Vale View, Salwayash,
Bridport, DT6 5JB

Hi,
My team and I do most kinds of gardening from clearing overgrown acres to fixing fences, planning patios and paddocks to looking after your lawn and maintaining landscapes.

Oh yes! We are also the parish lengthsman so we fend off floods by clearing ditches, placing storage bins and looking after public places for your parish council.

So if you have a garden problem, why not give us a call?

Stephen Lee: 07971 116660

Parish council meeting 17 Jan

It was an unusual meeting chaired by two councillors in the absence of Matthew Bowditch who was suffering from a painful bout of sciatica. He had told John Vanderwolfe, the council clerk, of his affliction, so the clerk turned to the vice chairman, Cllr Eddie Rowe to conduct the meeting – only he too was absent.

John turned to ex-chairman Cllr Bob Wyatt who obliged and started the meeting, rattling through the agenda. He had reached the Democratic Period where any parishioner can have their say, when in walked Eddie Rowe, who had been delayed. So the stand-in stand-in was replaced by the stand-in chairman.

Unitary Dorset Council

After that, the council proceeded as per the agenda with district councillor Mark Roberts telling of progress towards a new unitary Dorset Council. The chief executive will be Matt Prosser, joined by four other senior officers. Staff-associated organisations such as the Waste Partnership will now be part of the new council. A new logo was unveiled, chosen by the PR team.

Cllr Jacqui Sewell

Cllr Jacqui Sewell told the council that she had not been selected as the Conservative candidate for the new Marshwood Vale ward as she had hoped. Instead, Conservatives from all parts of the county chose Simon Christopher, the district councillor for Chideock and Symondsburry. Cllr Sewell's

record of work was acknowledged by the whole council who thanked her. She is now standing as an independent.

Cllr Ali Edward's report on Marshwood school speed restrictions followed. A pole-mounted SID (speed indicator display) has been fitted and comprises a speedgun-like unit coupled to a flashing display showing the speed of each vehicle as it approaches at more than 30mph. Drivers who obey the speed limit are greeted with a polite 'thank you' rather than a warning.

Replacement house supported

Under Finance, several bills were agreed, as was the bank balance. Planning Applications were next with Wild Swans, Marshwood, and a replacement house at Yardley being supported, but an application for Prime Coppice was delayed as the council wanted more details of what this involved.

Under Highways, the lengthsman had swiftly dealt with potholes in Marshwood and the deteriorated condition of the road at Monkwood was mentioned.

The final item was on the Neighbourhood Plan, commenting that the new shop site would feature in the plan.

Our two chairmen led the meeting swiftly and in just over the hour. The next council meeting was set for 21 March.

Parish council meeting 21 Mar

In a meeting more accurately described as 'fractious', Upper Marshwood Vale reached the end of the present council's tenure in office. No, the whole council did not resign over a matter of principle, it is about to be replaced by a brand new, freshly-elected council.

Before the meeting started, the clerk, John Vanderwolfe, handed a pile of papers to your reporter telling him that the Neighbourhood Plan team had overspent their budget. Yet the meeting kicked-off conventionally enough with a report on speed restrictions in Marshwood.

Cllr Ali Edwards told us how the Speedwatch group had submitted their records and received the agreement of the figures as they relate to Mutton Street, not the main road. These slow figures are reasonable considering the right angle turn at the school even with the newly erected sign warning drivers.

Speedwatch policy change

The police have a new policy of sending out an officer along with a Speedwatch representative so anyone caught on their speed gun will now be prosecuted. Since the new warning speed detectors are fully operational, there can be no excuse. Also it has been noted that traffic does not slow at the centre of Marshwood where the road descends the hill at Bucklands House.

Under Finance, the clerk produced figures which showed an overspend of the

Neighbourhood Plan by £259. He criticised the management of the team for this 'error', but none of them were present at the meeting, save for your reporter.

The NP committee reviewed the matter after the meeting and said that no overspend had in fact occurred. The issue arose from different accounting methods.

District councillor Mark Roberts then gave a description of Dorset County's new budgets. Next financial year will see increases in council tax to cover redundancies. Child welfare is another ever-increasing cost to councils, as is adult social care which eats up 75% of the budget.

This time Planning was curtailed by council actions to the website, which would not allow viewers to look up what was happening with various projects, causing much discontent among councillors. Local democracy rules, OK?

Discussions on the Neighbourhood Plan revolved around an email from Charles Somers who reported that the team had reached a draft plan (reported elsewhere in this issue) which it hoped to put before the council's next meeting in preparation for open discussion.

The next meeting will be on 16 of May. Perhaps sweetness and light will have dawned on officers and councillors by then.

Ali Cameron

Recipe: Easy salmon steak

Easy salmon steak – this recipe serves one, just multiply as required.

1 salmon steak
1/2 oz melted butter
1 heaped teaspoon whole grain mustard
1 tablespoon maple syrup

Heat oven to 190°C (180°C for fan ovens).

Mix butter, mustard and maple syrup together and pour over the salmon steak, which has been placed

on a sheet of foil in a baking dish. Seal foil into a parcel and bake fish for approximately 20 minutes until just cooked through.

Serve the salmon with the sauce poured over together with asparagus, baby tomatoes and sliced courgettes which can be cooked in the oven at the same time.

A delicious and easy meal ready in about half an hour.

Joy McClellan



Your local sweep: Glyn Yorke

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Neighbourhood Plan update: Consultation dates in May

Having recently completed a first draft of our Upper Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan (NP) we will be holding public consultation events at Marshwood and Stoke Abbott on the weekend of 18/19 May (see separate notice), this part of a six-week statutory consultation period that will run from Tuesday 7 May to Tuesday 18 June. We will also be making a NP presentation at the parish council meeting of 16 May.

If we run into some unforeseen delay, we may have to move the public meeting dates to the weekend of 8/9 June – please follow our website for the latest news.

The draft NP will be made available on our website (see below) and printed copies will be available at the parish council meeting, at the two public consultation events and, from the 7th of May, at the Bottle Inn, school and

Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council meeting dates

16 May: Parish Meeting and Annual Council Meeting

Regular council meetings follow on:

18 July

19 September

21 November

Meetings start at 7.30pm in Bettiscombe Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

garage in Marshwood and at the New Inn in Stoke Abbott.

www.uppermarshwoodvale.org/home/neighbourhood-plan/

Consultation feedback can be sent by e-mail, (to np@uppermarshwoodvale.org), by post (to The NP Steering Committee, c/o The Old Rectory, Marshwood, DT6 5QJ), collected at the public consultation events or left at the garage in Marshwood or at the New Inn in Stoke Abbott: all feedback should be received by no later than 18 June. Comments will be carefully considered and may result in changes to the plan.

A revised version of the NP will be presented to the parish council at their meeting of 18 July so that they may formally approve it and start the final examination process with an independent inspector.

After the examination has been completed, a referendum on the approved NP will be organised towards the end of the year. If approved by our local community, it will be then be incorporated into Dorset Council planning policy.

The draft NP covers the next 15-year period and addresses future needs for housing, growth in the local economy and protection of community facilities, local landscape and character. It also has specific policies on the following:

- Protecting community facilities such as pubs, churches, garage, school, village halls, and seeking a replacement for the shop at Marshwood;
- Protecting recreational access to the countryside and local assets such as Little Giant Wood, Lambert's Castle, Pilsdon Pen and footpaths;
- Protecting and enhancing the character of local landscape in future development;
- A general policy to allow conversion of existing buildings for residential use;
- A general policy to support small-scale employment enterprises;
- A site opposite Marshwood primary school (Colmer's) where a small number of well-designed houses could be allowed to be developed in return for a 30-space carpark (for use by the school and church) and to provide a possible site for a new shop.
- It also considers another site (The Dungeon) as an alternative site for a shop as well as a further site near the church (Gramarye) which might be used for some less visible development (e.g. a playground);
- The Three Counties Nurseries' site on the outskirts of Marshwood (ex-greenhouses) where some live/work units could be allowed to be developed.

**Charles Somers,
NP committee chairman**

Upper Marshwood Vale - Neighbourhood Plan

Final public consultations

**Saturday 18 May (10-12 am)
Marshwood church**

**Sunday 19 May (2-4 pm)
Stoke Abbott village hall**

***Please come and give us your input
on the Neighbourhood Plan before we submit
it to official consultees and an
independent inspector***

Marshwood shop plans beset by lack of volunteers

The Marshwood Shop Committee (MSC), was formed in response to the closure of the shop and post office last year and the outcome of a recent public consultation and public meeting. The MSC committee will be working under the umbrella of the Marshwood Community Land Trust.

Committee volunteers attended the first meeting in December 2018, where various committee appointments were made.

In addition to the provision of a new shop, the committee were keen to have the scope for a small room that could be used by the Post Office for additional outreach facilities, or used by the local PCSO to meet villagers or even a small room for gatherings such as a crafting group.

Seasonal café hoped for

An area for a small seasonal café was also one of our aspirations. We hoped that the shop could also sell items produced by our local talented artists and crafters, thus creating a central hub for the village which is lacking at present.

Committee members have visited various potential shop sites and these will be included in the first draft of the Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan. We also visited some of the local community shops to speak to volunteers, see how the shops are run and determine the number of volunteers

required. We created a draft volunteer questionnaire to gauge support to manage and run a community shop in Marshwood.

In March, we sent nearly 200 volunteer questionnaires to homes in Marshwood and the surrounding area. There has, sadly, been a low response to the questionnaire. This means that there will not be enough volunteers to run a community shop. The committee will now consider other options and ideas for a shop that could include the provision for some volunteer posts.

Thank you to those who responded

We would like to thank all those who responded to the questionnaire and to Marshwood Garage for being a drop-off point for the forms. If you would like to join the committee or register for future volunteering, please email: marshwoodsc@gmail.co.uk

Future developments will be posted on the Community Land Trust website: www.marshwoodclt.org.co.uk or the Facebook page: Marshwood CLT and in the next edition of the Beneath the Vale.

Marshwood Shop Committee

Marshwood Community Land Trust: Officers

Chairman	Rob England rob@thequester.co.uk	01297 678 548
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Secretary	Emma Davies em74@live.co.uk	01297 678 768
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Marshwood Shop sub-committee

Chairman	Helen Golding (marshwoodsc@gmail.com)
Vice-chair	Jackie Mears
Treasurer	John Piper

**Community Land Trust website: www.marshwoodclt.org.uk
Facebook Page: Marshwood CLT**

Interested in renting affordable housing?

Are you registered with Dorset Home Choice?

Would you, or someone you know, be interested in moving into one of the houses at Bramblehay, Marshwood, should a property become available? Allocation of these properties, and similar schemes in neighbouring villages, is handled by Dorset Home Choice. To be considered as a tenant, you need to be on the housing register. Be prepared by registering now at www.dorsethomechoice.org

When registering, please make sure you put the following statement on your application to show you qualify for Marshwood CLT housing:

'Have local connection required to qualify for CLT housing'

These houses are for those in our community. Please register, even if Dorset Home Choice would normally regard you as adequately housed.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee: Members

Chairman	Charles Somers somers984@btinternet.com	01297 678178
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Members	Jacqui Sewell, WDDC councillor Ali Cameron, UMV parish councillor Ali Edwards, UMV parish councillor Rob England, Marshwood CLT chairman David French, Stoke Abbott resident John Piper, Marshwood resident Sara Hudston, Editor, <i>Beneath the Vale</i>	

Address: NP Steering Committee, c/o The Old Rectory, Marshwood, Dorset DT6 5Q
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