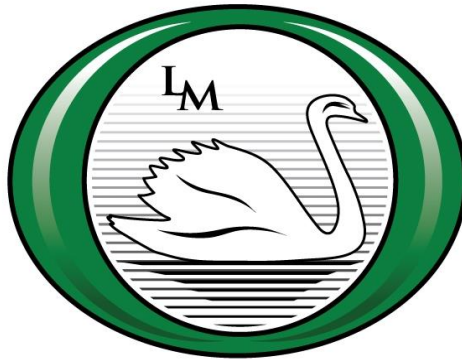


LITTLE MARLOW PARISH COUNCIL



YOUR COUNCIL FOR YOUR AREA

NEWSLETTER NO: 36
AUTUMN 2019

Little Marlow Parish Council
Community Office
The Pavilion
Church Road
Little Marlow
Bucks SL7 3RS
Tel: 01628 890301

www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk

Dear Little Marlow Resident,

Your Little Marlow Parish Newsletter is back! I am sorry that there was no newsletter last Autumn or in the Spring, but I hope that this bumper edition makes up for it. The newsletter aims to bring you up to date with what has been happening in the Parish of Little Marlow, with the work of Little Marlow Parish Council and with what some of the local clubs and organisations who use the Council's facilities have been up to.

For any of you who are not sure about what Little Marlow Parish Council does, I hope my Chairman's report will give you some idea of the range of responsibilities the Council has and the sort of issues with which it deals. And if you want to know more about what a Councillor does, read Councillor Anthea Falk's excellent article on being a Councillor. If this inspires you to consider becoming a Councillor, then you won't have to wait long to put yourself forward. As you will see from the article just before Councillor Falk's article, the next Parish Council Elections will be held on 7 May 2020. I would urge you to think seriously about whether you could serve your community by becoming a Councillor. And even if this is not for you, I do hope that election fatigue won't have set in and that you will come out and vote in these combined Buckinghamshire Council and Parish Council elections.

There are some pieces of really good news in the newsletter. Spoiler alert! Wycombe District Council has purchased the Spade Oak Lake site and one of their first actions as the new landowner was to arrange to have the fly-tipped waste removed and measures put in place to avoid further fly-tipping on the site. Thanks to the efforts of Bucks County Council fly-tipping team there have been some successful prosecutions of those responsible for the fly-tipping. And we now have a lovely new surface on the section of Marlow Road between Sheepridge Lane and Blyton House in Bourne End. More information can be found in the relevant articles.

The Council is fortunate to have a number of assets including two halls, the Pavilion on the Little Marlow Recreation Ground and Abbotsbrook Hall. We are delighted that they are well used by the local community, including two pre-schools, the WI, the Bridge Club and the Cricket Club. You can find out more about what they and others in our community such as the Little Marlow Church of England school have been up to in the relevant articles and read about a new local community group who are passionate about protecting our local wildlife. And some more good news: we still have vacancies at the two halls, both for one off events and as a meeting place for local groups and organisations. While I am on the subject of community, I would like to draw your attention to the article on the Geoffrey Moss Memorial Bowl which is awarded annually to a Little Marlow Resident who has given outstanding service to the community. Please read the article to find out how you can help the Council to find worthy candidates.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to attend our Annual Parish Meeting on 15 May 2020 at Abbotsbrook Hall. It is your chance to hear what your Parish Council has been up to in the previous year, to ask questions and to meet your Councillors while enjoying some refreshments after the formal part of the meeting is over. It would also be lovely to see you at our regular Parish Council meetings. The dates of our next few meetings are at the end of the newsletter. Happy reading!

Yours sincerely,

Valerie Brownridge, Chairman, Little Marlow Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2018/2019

(Delivered at the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th May 2019 by Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Valerie Brownridge).

This is my fourth annual report as Chairman of Little Marlow Parish Council.

The full Parish Council has met 10 times since our last Annual Parish Meeting, including one Extraordinary meeting. The various Parish Council committees have also met regularly. Parish Councillors have represented the Council on numerous outside bodies whose responsibilities and deliberations have a bearing on our Parish. In addition, the Clerk and Councillors have attended training and briefings on a range of issues including Wycombe District's Local Plan, planning more generally and the proposed abolition of the existing County Council and District Councils and their replacement by what we now know will be a single unitary authority.

For reasons which I will come to shortly, we only produced one newsletter last year but we are planning to return to our usual two newsletters this year with the first one coming out soon.

In spite of our relatively small size, we own quite a number of assets. Not surprisingly the Clerk and the Councillors have to devote a fair bit of time and energy to keeping them in good order – there always seems to be some problem with the plumbing or heating or something similar! But we consider ourselves fortunate to have these assets as they do benefit the community and bring in a very welcome income.

Before I give you a brief resume of what the Council has been up to, I would like to say a few words about one of our biggest challenges this year – the departure of our previous clerk, Emma Marsden, who unexpectedly handed in her notice last August. She was head hunted for a new and bigger job in Haddenham Parish Council. I would just like to record our enormous thanks for the excellent service which Emma gave in the four years she was our Clerk. I would also like to thank Deirdre Hansen, the Clerk at Bradenham Parish Council, who very kindly helped us to keep the Council functioning during the three months it took us to find a permanent Clerk. Our new Clerk, Jo Murray, whom I hope you have now all met, started at the end of November. It is already clear that we made an excellent choice. Jo has not been a Clerk before so she has had a very steep learning curve. I would like to thank her for her dedication and for all the hard work she has put in over the last six months to get on top of the many facets of what is actually a very complex job. And for keeping so calm and cheerful no matter what we throw at her!

Abbotsbrook Hall

Abbotsbrook Hall continues to be well used by the community but we would love to see it used even more, particularly at weekends. I would like to thank our Hirings Administrator, Christine Samuels, for dealing with Hall bookings on our behalf, and our caretaker, Peter Samuels, for looking after the hall so well.

Pavilion and Recreation Ground

You will recall that at last year's Parish Meeting, I reported that we were planning to refurbish the Pavilion and that we would be applying to the Public Works Loan Board for a loan of £20,000 to cover the cost. Unfortunately, we were unable to make sufficient progress with the project before Emma left and following her departure, we had to put the project on hold. A few months ago, we dusted off the plans and set up a small Refurbishment Committee to take the project forward. We are now at the stage of drawing up the tender document with the aim of carrying out the refurbishment this summer. There is some good news on the funding front. District Councils are required to pass 15% of Community Infrastructure Levy or CIL receipts arising from developments in their areas to the relevant Town or Parish Council. WDC have made one CIL transfer to us in respect of the development at Westhorpe House with a second one expected shortly which will bring the total to £42,216 with the possibility of a third transfer in October/November. The Council has decided to use the CIL funds to finance the refurbishment project which means that we no longer have to apply for a loan. Turning to the recreation ground, I should like to thank Richard Tedham for all the time and effort he puts into maintaining the ground.

Burial Ground

We have had a small traffic mirror installed on Sheepridge Lane opposite the entrance to the cemetery to make it safer for vehicles to exit onto Sheepridge Lane. Following a discussion about the future capacity of the cemetery, the Council tasked the Burial Ground Committee with coming up with a plan for extending the cemetery into the copse area. It will present its proposals to a Full Council shortly.

Roads and road safety

I mentioned last year that we had obtained matched funding from the Local Area Forum for two road safety projects in 2018/19 – a speed review in Little Marlow village as part of an attempt to have the speed limit reduced from 30mph to 20mph and measures to improve the exit from the Athletics Track onto Westhorpe Lane. Both projects were completed. We have only just received the results of the speed review so the Council has not yet discussed them. The conclusions are that a speed reduction to 20mph is unlikely to produce a further reduction in already low speeds.

Allotments

We still have some empty plots but I am pleased to report that we have a couple of new allotment holders and have recently had a few more expressions of interest.

Athletics Track

The Council is continuing to press WDC to enforce the S106 planning obligations with relation to the cycle paths and footpaths.

General

As a Quality Award Council, we are required to draw up an Action Plan setting out the Parish Council's objectives for the coming year. We reviewed our 2018/19 Action Plan at a recent Council meeting. I have to admit we failed to meet a couple of our objectives. We have therefore carried them over into our Action Plan for 2019/20 which also includes some new objectives. The Plan is on our website and there are a few copies available on the table.

The Parish Council continued to carry out the grass cutting and other work which Bucks County Council devolved to us in 2015. The Council accepted the offer from Bucks CC to renew the Devolved Services contract for another 4 years but this has since been reduced to a year because Bucks CC won't exist after 31 March 2020. I should like to thank our two contractors, Greg Taylor and Steve Rogers, for the sterling work they did last year to maintain the Parish open spaces and the burial ground. Their two year contracts ended earlier this year so we went out to tender for the new contract. The Open Spaces Contract was awarded to Buckland Landscapes and the Burial Ground contract was again awarded to SR Farm Services.

We greatly appreciate all the hard work the volunteers from Coldmoorholm Lane have again put into maintaining the car-park on the Lane. Following the sale of the Spade Oak Gravel Pit site and the field off Coldmoorholme Lane, we continue to be concerned about the future of the Permissive Path around Spade Oak lake which was covered by an agreement between Lafarge and the Parish Council.

This brings me to the issue which has taken up a good deal of the Council's time this year - fly-tipping and particularly the fly-tipping on the approach road to the Spade Oak Gravel Pit site and the Thames Water Sewage works. Removal of waste from private land is the responsibility of the landowner. Although Bucks CC is not responsible for clearing waste on private land, their fly tipping team do investigate and, where possible, prosecute the fly-tippers. The team have undertaken a number of investigations of the fly tipping on the Spade Oak site and are now pursuing a couple of court cases. We are delighted that Bucks CC's waste enforcement officer, David Rounding, has kindly agreed to join us this evening to update us on the work he has been doing and the progress he has made.

Both BCC and the Parish Council have made a number of attempts to contact the landowner, directly as well as through his agent and solicitor to urge him to have the waste cleared and to put security measures in place to prevent further tipping. Most of our e-mails and letters have failed to elicit a response. Following a visit by travellers in April, the landowner's son came to the site. He did make arrangements to clear away some of the waste but more waste has been dumped since then. We were told that the remaining waste would be cleared last week but nothing has happened - again. We have also approached Thames Water but they say they are unable to take action because they do not own the road. Thames Valley Police have been very helpful. They regularly patrol the area and have spoken to the landowner's son a couple of times to urge him to remove the waste. We seem to have no option as a Parish Council other than to keep plugging away as we have been doing.

We were all greatly saddened by the damage caused and the losses sustained by some of our parishioners as a result of the field fires last July. A number of concerns were raised with the Council following the fires which we followed up with the Fire Brigade and Thames Water.

Turning now to the Local Plan for Wycombe District, the Inspector has submitted his comments on the Plan. He accepted the policies in the Plan relating to the Little Marlow Lakes Country Park and the Westhorpe site, particularly its retention in the Green Belt and non-inclusion among the proposed areas suitable for development. He has not however questioned the policies relating to the proposed development at Hollands Farm in spite of the concerns which the Parish Council and others expressed.

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced in November that he had decided to implement the proposal to replace Bucks County Council and the four District Councils in Buckinghamshire by one new single unitary district council which we now know will be called Buckinghamshire Council. The new Council will come into being on 1 April 2020. It was agreed that there would not be any local elections in 2019 so the elections for the next Parish and Town Councils will take place on 7 May 2020 at the same time as elections for new Unitary Council. The Secretary of State made it clear that the existing Councils had to engage with the local community, including Town and Parish Councils, during the transition phase. He also indicated that although the Shadow Authority had to have regard to Bucks CC's business case, they did not need to follow it to the letter. We hope that this will mean that Parish Councils will be able to have a say on how some of the proposals affecting them such as devolution, the proposed Community hubs and the creation of five planning authorities are taken forward. On behalf of our Parish Council, I have already been involved in a consultation process being run by the Bucks Association of Local Councils to ensure that the views and concerns of Town and Parish Councils on the operation of the new Unitary Council and particularly its relationship with Town and Parish Councils, is taken into account by the Shadow Authority during the transition phase.

As usual I have gone on for too long. But I would just ask for your indulgence for a few more minutes as I cannot end my report without expressing my appreciation to a few others who have supported me in my role as Chairman. I will start by thanking the chairmen of our two Residents' Associations, Jason Downes and Richard Boas. I would also like to thank County and District Councillor David Watson and District Councillors David Johncock and John Savage for their invaluable advice and for taking up matters on our behalf with both the County and District Councils. But my biggest thanks go to my fellow Parish Councillors for their continued commitment and service to the Parish Council and the wider community. I have already recorded my thanks to Emma Marsden, who was a fantastic Clerk and to Jo Murray who I know is going to be just as fantastic. We could not achieve what we achieve as a Parish Council without each and every one of them.

New Unitary Authority: Buckinghamshire County Council

Buckinghamshire County Council and the four District Councils in Buckinghamshire, including Wycombe District Council, will cease to exist on 31 March 2020. They will be replaced by a new unitary authority – Buckinghamshire Council – which goes live on 1 April 2020. Elections for the 147 Buckinghamshire Council Councillors will take place on 7 May 2020, May 2025 and then every four years after that.

A Shadow Executive was formed to oversee the creation of the new Buckinghamshire Council along with a Shadow Authority made up of all of the 202 councillors currently serving on the five Buckinghamshire councils. An implementation team was also set up to manage the smooth transfer of services and staff to the new Council.

Members of the Parish Council have attended a number of workshops and briefings about the future working relationship and division of responsibilities between the new Council and Town and Parish Councils. Issues discussed include further devolution of services and assets from the new Council to Town and Parish Councils and the plan to create between 11 and 19 Community Boards across the county.

One of the stated aims of the Community Boards which will meet around 6 times a year is to enable local Buckinghamshire Council Councillors, Parish Councillors and other community representatives to come together to find local solutions to local issues. Little Marlow will be part of the same Board as Marlow, Great Marlow, Marlow Bottom and Wooburn Green if a decision is taken to create 11,12 or 14 boards but not if 19 boards are created. For this and a number of other reasons, in response to the Shadow Authority's consultation survey, the Parish Council supported the creation of 14 boards. The Parish Council also made the point that the Boards need to have real power and influence, to be given a say on issues that matter to the community and to be properly resourced in terms of Buckinghamshire Council staff time and funds.

Discussions are still underway as to how planning is going to be organised under the new Council, but one option under consideration is the creation of local planning authorities covering the same areas as the old District Councils. The Parish Council is very much in favour of planning decisions continuing to be taken by planning staff who have a good local knowledge and are familiar with the area and the community.

Have your say on the new Buckinghamshire Council's priorities and budget

The new Buckinghamshire Council will be responsible for providing all services to the residents of Buckinghamshire. This includes waste and recycling collections, roads and transport, education and learning, health and social care, planning where new housing goes or making use of parks, libraries and leisure centres. The Shadow Authority has just launched a consultation exercise called "Your council, your services, your views" which will run until 25 November. Residents are being asked to give their views on what the new Council should focus on, the services which are most important to them and the new Council's proposed budget for 2020 by completing a short survey which can be found online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/bcbudget2020>. Please make sure you have your say!

Parish Council Elections, 7 May 2020

You may have noticed – but then again you might not have done! – that the Parish Council elections which were due to have taken place in 2019 did not happen. It was agreed that they should be postponed until 7 May 2020 so that they could take place at the same time as the first elections for the new Buckinghamshire Council.

Now for the exciting bit: this is your opportunity to become a Parish Councillor! Admittedly it is not one of those “once in a lifetime” opportunities we hear so much about, but it is a once in four years opportunity. And if you are wondering what being a Parish Councillor entails, read Cllr Anthea Falk’s article below or arrange to call or meet up with me or one of our other existing Councillors to chat about what we do as Councillors or even come along to one of our Parish Council meetings.

The role and responsibilities of Parish Councils are likely to evolve over the next few years as the new Buckinghamshire Council beds in. This is therefore a great time to join the Parish Council and help shape its future role in terms of how it serves the local community and how it works with and alongside the new Council on a range of local issues such as planning, infrastructure, transport, green spaces and community facilities.

Our current Parish Councillors live in Little Marlow village, Westhorpe, Winchbottom Lane, Fern Lane, Coldmoorholme Lane and Abbotsbrook. A number are planning to stand for re-election but it would be really good to have candidates from all parts of Little Marlow parish and - dare I say it - from a wider age range as we would then be even better placed as a Council to represent the interests of all of our residents.

You have a little bit of time to think about whether you would like to become a Councillor as the deadline for the submission of nomination papers will probably be in early April 2020, but I would encourage you to start giving it some thought now, discuss it with your friends and neighbours, talk to existing Councillors and I hope come to the conclusion that you would like to put your name forward to stand in the Parish Council Elections in 2020.

Being a Parish Councillor

Why did you want to be a parish councillor?



It started largely because I was quite annoyed about something that was happening in the Parish and I wanted to do something positive about it. The Parish Council is the level of government closest to the community but it is non-political, that was important to me. People who have a local concern or idea will often turn to the Council in the first instance. The Parish Council is a vital part of any community, making decisions on behalf of the people in the parish.

What made you think you had enough skills to be a councillor?

I had sat on various other local committees such as the school PTA (a long time ago!), and the Residents' Association. I had been part of the community for some time. I did not know a huge amount about how local government worked however, so I was very relieved to find that there is plenty of training offered to 'newbies'.

What has it been like?

My idea of the Parish Council was that it met now and then in the Pavilion and that meetings went on for ages. Actually the reality is nothing like that. We meet approximately every six weeks and we are not all over 70 as is the usual view! The meetings are business like and the matters under discussion are important to the local area. Members of the public can also attend and raise issues that concern them. We discuss planning matters (we are statutory consultees), manage open spaces, look after community buildings, allotments, play areas, street lighting and campaign for and, hopefully, deliver better services and facilities.

We do have committees to deal with specific subjects, such as the finance committee, who then report back to the full council. We also have representatives on outside bodies. These tasks are divided amongst the councillors so do not take over your life.

Whilst Parish Councils could be said to have limited powers to make decisions, they do have considerable power to influence other organisations. The organisations that make final decisions understand that a Parish Council knows how a community feels about something and its views will be taken seriously.

What would you say to someone who would like to be a councillor?

Put yourself forward, you have nothing to lose and plenty to gain. You will get a real sense of achievement. Exciting times are ahead with the move to the Single Unitary Authority in Bucks and it is a privilege to work for and support your community to make sure of the best outcomes in local matters.

Geoffrey Moss Memorial Bowl

Geoffrey Moss was a former County Councillor and Chairman of the Parish Council from 1975-1980. He gave a rose bowl to the Parish Council and asked them to present it annually to any resident of Little Marlow who in the opinion of the Parish Council had given outstanding service to the community. In previous years, nominations have been made by Councillors and the person with the most votes has been awarded the bowl. Parish Councillors are, however, concerned that they are not casting the net widely enough. They are sure that there are a number of Little Marlow residents who are giving outstanding service to the community but are just not known to them. Councillors therefore decided that in future we need to recruit the help of residents in finding deserving candidates. Please therefore look out for our request for nominations at the beginning of next year and let us have your suggestions of whom you think would be a worthy recipient of the rose-bowl and why. We will post details on our website and our Parish Council notice-boards. It is not too early to start thinking about whom you might like to nominate. If you already have someone in mind, then do not wait, just send an e-mail or letter to the Parish Clerk now. The bowl will be presented to the most worthy candidate at the Annual Parish Meeting which will take place at Abbotsbrook Hall on Friday 15 May 2020. Please put that date in your diary!

GEOFFREY MOSS MEMORIAL ROSE BOWL HOLDERS

1980/81	Mrs. M. Lunnon	2001/02	Richard E. Tedham
1981/82	Mrs. O.M. Ayres	2002/03	John Lunnon
1982/83	Mrs. J.M. Sears	2003/04	Rod Taylor
1983/84	Dr. D.A. Fergusson	2004/05	Elizabeth J.Whitehouse
1984/85	Mrs. D.S. Fowler	2005/06	Bernard Burger
1985/86	G. Sears	2006/07	T.J. Juby
1986/87	W.L. Beeby	2007/08	Julie and Jonathan Hall
1987/88	J.C. Parkinson	2008/09	Ulrike Walmsley
1988/89	Basil Dryland	2009/10	Peter Emmett
1989/90	Mrs. Amy Meaden	2010/11	Richard Boas
1990/91	Rev. L.J. Hart	2011/12	Verity West
1991/92	Mrs. Gwen Cowen	2012/13	Clive Innocent
1992/93	K.S. Leigh	2014/15	Roger Wicks
1993/94	Lady Greta Weiss	2015/16	Barbara Wallis
1994/95	Rev. Charles Chadwick	2016/17	Dallas Banfield
1995/96	R.C.A. Watkins	2017/18	Richard Boas
1996/97	E. Clark	2018/19	David Brown
1997/98	R.J. Cowen		
1998/99	Dr. J. Ellis		
1999/2000	Mrs. Marguerite Fergusson		
2000/01	William Northcroft		



Fly-tipping

Our greatest frustration as a Parish Council this year has been our inability to have the piles of fly-tipped waste removed from Muschallick Road, the approach road to the Spade Oak Gravel Pit site and the Thames Water Sewage works. As the fly tipped waste was on a private road on private land, its removal was the responsibility of the landowner. All our attempts to persuade the landowner to take action fell on deaf ears. However, the good news is that the land has now been bought by WDC (see the separate article about the Spade Oak Lake) and I am delighted to report that within a few weeks of buying the land, WDC arranged for the waste to be removed. They have also taken steps to deter those considering fly-tipping on this road in the future, including installing new CCTV, new signage, fencing and tree trunks.

In the meantime, the fly tipping team at Bucks County Council (BCC) are continuing to pursue their investigations into those responsible for the fly-tipping which has resulted in a number of successful prosecutions. A case against a building company from Kent was heard at Wycombe Magistrates Court on 24 July. A load of their waste was dumped on Muschallick Road in December. The company pleaded guilty to failing to take reasonable measures to prevent its waste being dumped illegally and had to pay a total of £3,647 in fines, costs etc. A second company and its project manager were fined on 11 September (£2,670 and £1,674 respectively) regarding waste they produced and transferred to “a man with a van” at a West London address. The vast majority of the dumping has been shown to have come from only two vehicles acting independently. Action is being taken with regard to both vehicles.

Fly-tipping in the parish has not just been limited to the Spade Oak site. Waste has also been illegally dumped in other parts of the Parish, including Winchbottom Lane and Monkton Lane. The person who was discovered to have dumped waste at the top of Winchbottom Lane in June was a foreign national who was about to return to his own country. He was cautioned rather than prosecuted after he agreed to remove the waste he had dumped and after he had provided proof that he had disposed of it lawfully. Investigation work in Winchbottom Lane is ongoing. Evidence in the waste found dumped in Monkton Lane led to another successful prosecution for the fly-tipping team. In this case a householder had paid for some waste to be taken away. The person who took the waste then paid someone else to dispose of it but did not check whether this person was licensed. He had to pay a total of £3,046 in fines and costs for failure in his duty of care regarding the waste.

Fly-tipping is sadly going to continue to be a problem in our parish but you can help to tackle it. If you see any vehicle dumping waste, please take a note of the vehicle's registration number and report it to BCC using the Waste Partnership hotline (0845 330 1856) or use the BCC fly-tipping form on the BCC's website – www.bucksccl.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/fly-tipping/ . You should also pass the details to the police using the 101 number. Similarly, if you see any vehicle acting suspiciously near what could potentially be a good place to dump waste, please pass the vehicle's details to the police.

Finally, if you are having waste taken away from your home or business it is essential that you identify the waste carrier properly – the waste producer can be fined if they haven't made the required checks and the waste is dumped illegally. Please make sure you use an Environment Agency registered waste carrier rather than a waste carrier who just turns up at your door and NEVER pay by cash...



Fly-tipping on Muschallick Road



Muschallick Road after fly-tipping waste removed

Wycombe District Council buys Spade Oak Lake and former Quarry Site

Great news for supporters of the Little Marlow Lakes Country Park. Wycombe District Council announced last month that they have purchased Spade Oak Lake and the surrounding site of the former quarry works, located between Marlow and Bourne End.

A Country Park in the area was first proposed in the 1960s and in 2002 planning guidance was published supporting the project. A committee, The Little Marlow Lakes Country Park Community Partnership, chaired by Mike Overall, has led efforts to coordinate the different stakeholders involved in the area towards the creation of a Country Park. The Parish Council is represented on the Partnership, whose aim is to safeguard the natural environment whilst providing it as an amenity to the public.

Spade Oak Lake, an important wildlife site surrounded by public and permissive footpaths, had been under threat of development after its sale by Tarmac Lafarge in 2017. Since then that access road and part of the site itself has been blighted by high levels of fly-tipping. WDC have now had the fly-tipped waste cleared from the site (see separate article on fly-tipping).

Going forward WDC is to begin working with the community to establish priorities and needs to establish the site as an attraction for visitors and locals alike within the wider country park. For now, the footpath around Spade Oak Lake continues to provide access to all to one of our most treasured local wildlife habitats.



Little Marlow CE School News



Oak Class- *What happens when I fall asleep?*

The children really enjoyed coming in to school on their first full day all cosy in their pyjamas! They learnt some relaxation yoga techniques and talked about different dreams. What a relaxing start to the school year.



Aspen Class- *Splendid skies*

The children used their DT skills and science knowledge to create their own parachutes. They thoroughly enjoyed observing how each one drifted to the floor.



Elder Class- *Street detectives*

The children travelled through Little Marlow village learning about its history and geography. There were clues for them to discover along the walk which were recorded on their special detective clip boards.



Marlow Carnival 2019- *Oh I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside!*

It was great to see so many of our pupils and parents join the parade down Marlow High Street for the Marlow Carnival. With the beautiful sunshine too I'm sure you'll agree the procession and floats really added to the atmosphere and sense of occasion for the carnival and it was great to be a part of it.

Thank you so much to all of you who came along on the day, helped decorate our lorry or who donated props for the float.



Little Marlow CofE School
www.littlemarlowschool.org.uk
 School House School Lane, Marlow SL7 3SA

The Pavilion

The Pavilion Refurbishment

The Parish Council had hoped to do all the refurbishment work this past summer but, in the end, due to time constraints only improvements to the drainage in the Away Changing room's W/C were completed, although this was arguably the most important element of the works. Grateful thanks must be made to the successful contractors who turned around the work in the minimum time and with the minimum disruption.

We are now entering into a tendering process for the remaining works, namely full internal and external redecoration; some kitchen improvements including increased storage and the re-instatement of the serving hatch; improved chair storage within the main hall to stop the constant to-ing and fro-ing of chairs from the changing rooms to the hall with the inherent damage to the doors and frames this causes and further improvements to storage space within the hall; improvements to the loft space which is used extensively by the council and user groups but which is very difficult to access easily and safely. The contract for this work will be awarded by competitive tendering on the 19th of December giving plenty of time for the successful bidder to gear-up for commencement as soon as the pre-school have broken up in July 2020. Much of the cost of the refurbishment will be funded by our share of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which WDC has raised in respect of the development at Westhorpe House.

These works will ensure the Bradish-Ellames Cricket Pavilion continues to perform an important role in our community for sporting, educational and leisure pursuits for many years to come.

Little Marlow Preschool

Mrs Kirby, one of the preschool team, took the seeds from the pumpkin carving of 2018 and planted them in her allotment. The harvest provided the preschool children with pumpkins to carve for 2019!



Little Marlow and Well End WI

Little Marlow & Well End WI has an active membership of 50 ladies, drawn from the surrounding area of Little Marlow, Marlow, Bourne End, Beaconsfield and High Wycombe. We meet every month in the Pavilion to be enlightened, amused or entertained – but hardly ever bored - by our guest speaker and to enjoy some social time with fellow members over tea and cake. In addition, we have groups who pursue their interests in rambling, book reading, crafting or playing Rummikub every month.

We also enjoy outings and recently have visited West Wycombe Park, the beautiful garden at Lord's Wood, and Bletchley Park. This year we held our Summer Show at the Abbotsbrook Hall so that we had more space to display the 100+ entries submitted by our members in various classes of cookery and craft.

We support a number of charities by making knitted items for the Queen Mother's Clothing Guild, donating toiletries to Wycombe Women's Aid and foodstuffs to One Can, and used postage stamps to PDSA.

Unfortunately our membership is limited due to the space restrictions in the Pavilion, however if you would like your name to be added to our waiting list please contact our President: Carole Kirkland on 01628 486709 or carole.kirkland@icloud.com.



Members of Little Marlow & Well End WI deciding which is the best chocolate cake out of 13 entries in their Summer Show".



Planning an event and need a location?

ABBOTSBROOK HALL & THE PAVILION

Are available for Hire

at very competitive prices

Preferential rates for Parishioners of Little Marlow.

Contact – Pavilion Hire – 01628 890301

Abbotsbrook Hall – 01628 528936



Abbotsbrook Hall

Abbotsbrook Hall underwent some internal refurbishment during 2018, making a huge improvement to the general appearance. The floor in the main hall and by the stage was re-varnished in July and the curtains were replaced. Further maintenance was carried out on Abbotsbrook Hall's beautiful high windows. The hall is available to hire for gatherings and you can enjoy Abbotsbrook Hall's unique 'arts and crafts' architecture – see the photo below.



Bridge at Abbotsbrook Hall

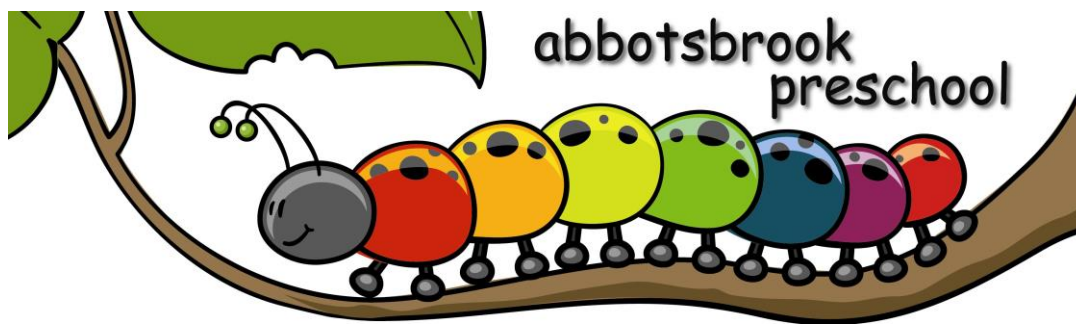
These days, we are bombarded with conflicting health advice, but all experts agree on one thing - the most important thing is to keep your mind active.

For several years now, a group of friendly people have met at Abbotsbrook Hall and enjoyed playing Duplicate Bridge. Abbotsbrook Bridge Club meets every Thursday and play commences promptly at 1.30pm. You do need a partner, but the Club Committee can often help with this.

The weekly fee is £2.50, (£2.00 if you become a member.) This includes tea, coffee and biscuits available throughout the session. The club is not constricted membership of any outside body, but it does require playing within the rules of Bridge.

Why not come along and give it a try? If you need further information just give me a call on 01494 711225.





Abbotsbrook Pre-School

For the past year we have been getting the children more involved in cookery. Pre-Schoolers are notoriously fussy eaters, so we save the cakes and cookies for baking with their families and introduce them to more savoury recipes.

We have been amazed by the variety of fruits and vegetables the children have been willing to try after being involved in their creation. Snack time has never been as much fun.

Visit www.abbotsbrookpreschool.co.uk to see how you can get your child involved.



Smooth Running

By the time you are reading this I am sure that the resurfaced Marlow Road will be a joy to pedal and motor along. While the overnight road closures caused some angst (and several dark, rainy drives for me up and down Sheepridge and Winchbottom Lane) I am sure we all pleased this resurfacing has happened.

I wondered about how much this all cost (and who decides what needs repairing and when) and got googling. Turns out that TfB (Transport for Buckinghamshire) a joint initiative between Ringway Jacobs and Bucks County Council have a budget for 2019/2020 of £15 million for road surfacing (it was £20 million in 2018/19). Buckinghamshire County Council have 3200 km (357km of A roads and 2880km of Minor roads) to look after and these roads are valued (as a Bucks County Council asset) at £4.2 billion. It may surprise you that, in February 2019, it was reported by the Department of Transport (using their Road Condition Indicator) that only 4% (14km) of Buckinghamshire County Council run A roads and 5% (144km) of B and C roads needed maintenance.

Re-surfacing costs between £29-£59 per square metre and should give the road another 10 years of life. I will endeavour to find out what our new road ended up costing. Most exciting thing I found out is that TfB used top of the range Etnyre Chipper Spreaders (who do surface dressing in one clean sweep) and there are only two in the country!

Councillor Kath Acres



Can you help a new local community group, passionate about protecting local Wildlife?

We are looking for people with a variety of skills and experience to help get this group off the ground – conservation knowledge, event planning, guided walks, media skills, finance experience, admin, etc.

If you would like to find out more, contact us on Facebook or email Wildmarlow1@gmail.com

Little Marlow Cricket Club

2019 saw mixed fortunes for Little Marlow Cricket Club. Both league teams finished in low to middle order positions, whilst the Sunday side, similarly, won some, drew some and lost some.

In a wet summer many pitches offered more to the bowlers than they did in drought-ridden 2018. For the 1st X1 it was spin twins, Arfan Sharif and Player-of-the Year Umar Islam, who did most of the damage. For the 2nds it was the seam up of former colt Tom Lathey and skipper Ged Holmes. The latter, one of several Little Marlow players first introduced to the game when a pupil at the village school, also starred with the bat.

All those named above, together with 1st X1 Batsman-of-the-Year, Tahir Rashid and 16-year-old Danny Ishaq, the Sunday Player-of-the-Year, received awards at the annual Presentation Evening.

Off the field, Tim Potter, chairman for the past twelve years, was a thoroughly worthy recipient of the

Geoffrey Moss Memorial Shield. Many older readers will have fond memories of Geoff, a former chairman of both the cricket club and the parish council.

And so we look forward to next season. Recruitment will be a priority, both for the seniors and our junior colts. Training will begin in the New Year. www.littlemarlowcc.co.uk/



Traffic Speed Assessment in Little Marlow

Transport for Buckinghamshire carried out a speed assessment for the Parish Council because of concerns about the high volume of traffic travelling at speed through Church Road, School Lane and Pound Lane. The assessment took place between 25th February and 4th March. Traffic during this period did travel at below the maximum speed of 30mph but at times speeds did register as high as 28mph, although at other times as low as 17mph. The conclusion of the Thames Valley Police Traffic Management Officer, after looking at the data, was that as traffic was already travelling at below the maximum speed limit of 30mph he did not see that there would be any real benefit to the community in view of the cost involved in installing terminal signs. However, The National Police Chief Guidelines indicate that if speeds are commensurate with a lower limit, which they are, Thames Valley Police cannot object to the proposal. But, as the Highway Authority concurs with TVP that any further reduction in speed is unlikely to be achieved by installing a 20 mph limit then no enforcement of the 20mph limit would be likely.

The full report and record of traffic speeds is available if anyone would like more details and the Parish Council would welcome comments on this report and any other concerns about traffic problems in the parish.

Annual Parish Meeting - 15th May 2020

Invitation to our Parishioners

Our next Annual Parish Meeting will be on the 15th May 2020 at Abbotsbrook Hall at 7.30 pm for 8pm. We would be delighted to welcome as many parishioners as possible. This is an opportunity for parishioners to meet Councillors in a more informal setting and see how Little Marlow Parish Council is spending your precept as well as to ask questions and raise issues of concern to them. There are reports on Finance and Planning and as well as contributions from organisations such as Thames Valley Police.

Each year we invite our local MP and we have been fortunate to welcome the Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC in the past.



Light refreshments will be served

MARLOW ENGAGEMENT POLICING TEAM



Inspector Pete Wall



Sergeant Robin Hughes



PC Darren King



PCSO Claire Bowles



PCSO Lucy Ash



PCSO Agata Cydzik



PCSO Mark Rackstraw



To contact your local Neighbourhood Team call 101 (non-emergency Police number) or email MarlowNHPT2@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood Policing

Working in partnership to make our community safer



www.thamesvalley.police.uk



Contact Details

Valerie Brownridge	Chairman	01628 523367	valeriebrownridge.lmpc@gmail.com
Geoff Fitchew	Vice-Chairman	01628 523107	geofffitchew.lmpc@gmail.com
Anthea Falk		01628 483817	antheafalk.lmpc@gmail.com
Jason Downes		01628 477189	jasondownes.lmpc@gmail.com
Kathryn Acres		01628 531521	kathacres.lmpc@gmail.com
Phillip Emmett		07939142480	philipemmett.lmpc@gmail.com
Richard Mash		01628 485552	richardmash.lmpc@gmail.com
Roger Randall		07946 108705	rogerrandall.lmpc@gmail.com
Vivien Morton		01628 486680	vivienmorton.lmpc@gmail.com
Jo Murray	Clerk to the Council	01628 890301	clerk@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Full Council Meetings 2019/20

8pm, The Pavilion, Little Marlow, SL7 3RS:

12th November 2019, 17th December 2019,

28th January 2020, 10th March 2020, 21st April 2020, 26th May 2020

*Annual Parish Meeting – 15th May 7.30pm for 8pm

Annual Parish Council Meeting – 26th May 7.30pm

* at Abbotsbrook Hall

Except where indicated, all meetings start at 8pm and all public and press are invited to attend.

Little Marlow Parish Council

Community Office

The Pavilion

Church Road

Little Marlow

Bucks SL7 3RS

Tel: 01628 890301

www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk

Office opening hours are:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am to 1.30pm