

Maids Moreton Parish Council Newsletter



Spring 2025

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SJP Approved 20/03/2024

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Local Elections – Thursday 1 May 2025 – Polling Station is the Village Hall and it will be open from 7am to 10pm

If you are registered elector in Maids Moreton, you should have received a Poll Card. If you have not received this, contact the Electoral Registration Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF phone 01296 798141.

If you need a postal vote, you can do this online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>. You can also download a form here to submit by post to the address above. Applications must be delivered by 5pm on 14 April 2025.

1 Parish Council Meetings 2025

MMPC meetings start at 7.30 pm and are in the Village Hall unless noted otherwise.

Date	Meeting type
02 April 2025	Parish Council Meeting
14 May 2025	Parish Council Meeting – Community Building & Scout Hut
28 May 2025	Annual Meeting of the Parish
04 June 2025	Parish Council Meeting
02 July 2025	Parish Council Meeting

Your Parish Councillors

Graham Maw (Chair)

Patrick Hardcastle (Vice Chair)

Anthony Clarke

Carolyn Cumming

Clare Hodgson

Malcolm Sayers

One vacancy

All Parish Councillors' PC emails are: initialsurname@maids-moreton.co.uk

Streetlights

We do try to track failures but if you spot one, please email our clerk, Adele (maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com) or Graham or Pat – or just speak to them when you see them and we will contact our contractor to have them repaired.

Maids Moreton Parish Council

8 Keppel Avenue, Haversham, Milton Keynes, MK19 7AJ

Parish Clerk - Adele Boughton Tel: 07544 751061

Email: maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com

Website: www.maidsmoreton.co.uk

2 Parish Council Actions

Well, it has been a busy time for your Parish Council over the last few months. We have been supporting our Community Café which is going from strength to strength thanks to our three volunteers Linda, Tracey and Clare. Without their hard work and excellent baking, the project would not be as successful as it is.

The Café is open every Tuesday morning from 9-30am to 12-30pm serving homemade cakes and excellent coffees of your choice or a pot of tea if preferred. It is planned to open the café twice a week during the Easter holidays and the dates can be found on the back of this newsletter. During the summer holidays we plan to open at least twice a week and offer cold canned drinks and maybe even ice creams, along with our usual offerings.

The playground continues to be well used, and we have put in place regular inspections to ensure that the equipment is maintained. There have recently been repairs to the roundabout, and replacement of some capping on the younger children's play area; part of the trampoline edging is being replaced in early May.

Some of you may have noticed that the green container next to the community building has gone, this belonged to the Scouts and was broken into and the door damaged beyond repair. The Parish Council offered to pay half the costs involved in removing the container, which required a specialist company to be involved. Removing the container has enabled the Parish Council to clear the area where the container stood and we are now looking at what can be done with this hard standing, having cleared the vegetation around it.

Your Parish Council has managed to not only keep the Precept the same this year as last year, this has resulted in a 2.5% deduction in your council tax bills under the Maids Moreton section on the 2025/2026 Council Tax demand, when all other areas see an increase of between 5% and 6.3%.

3 Planning and Development

You may have noticed that public comments on planning applications are no longer displayed in the Buckinghamshire Council planning portal. This because there was a security breach of personal information as a result of which, BC decided to stop making public comments available on the grounds of GDPR. As a result, as a Parish Council we shall no longer be able to see public comments, even though we continue to be statutory consultees on planning applications within the parish.

When responding to planning applications, it is helpful for us to be able to see comments from our residents but this will no longer be possible. It may be that we could view comments in hard copy in Aylesbury but even this is unclear and it would be time very consuming to do so.

The decision to suppress public comments may be reviewed but probably now not until after the elections on 1 May. In the meantime, it would be very helpful if any resident submitting a comment that they would like us to see could email it to: phardcastle@maids-moreton.co.uk

Work is underway on a new Local Plan for Buckinghamshire covering the whole of the county. Once accepted, this will replace the current local plan - VALP (2021) - and is intended to provide a framework for housing and economic development sites up to 2045. In respect of housing, the revised methodology now being applied indicates Buckinghamshire's annual housing need figure will rise from 2,912 to 4,319 homes each year. To meet this target, Buckinghamshire Council has issued a further call for sites to add to their earlier exercises on this.

While everyone agrees that there is need for more housing, this must be built together with adequate provision of infrastructure and services – health, education, water supply and sewerage capacity, shopping, transport, roads, *etc.* – while maintaining adequate open green space and recreational facilities and not devastating the natural environment and blotting out our landscapes.

The organisation Wild Fish, which started focusing on our chalk streams, has widened its mandate to include a focus on sewerage being released into rivers due to inadequate capacity of water recycling centres and discharges of untreated effluent into our rivers, which is a matter of which we are well in Maids Moreton and Buckingham. They have a new initiative - *No capacity, no development.*

In addition to pressure on land for housing and economic activities, there is currently huge pressure on land for green energy, particularly solar farms and associated battery storage facilities. This is a major issue around The Claydons. MMPC is a member of the North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium that bring together 31 Parish and Town Councils and two Parish Meetings in the north of the former AVDC area to share experience and strengthen our voices for advocacy on planning matters with Buckinghamshire Council, currently chaired by Pat – mainly because no one else was willing to take on the role! We find making our combined voices heard is still challenging but at least together our volume is louder.

News from Village and Community Groups

4 News from The Wheatsheaf

A massive thank you to everyone that has been so supportive over our first 6 months, particularly Jo and Brad who continue to point us in the right direction.

March was Jo's last monthly quiz and now Jayne & Julie pick up the reins for the first time on Saturday, 5th April. So far, the quiz nights have raised almost £350 for the Village Hall roof fund. Please remember, it's £2 per person cash on the night – max 6 per team please. Please note that whilst we aim to have the quiz on the first Saturday of each month, our May quiz will be on the 10th.

On 4th April will see the start of PIZZA FRIDAY when Maids Moreton company, *Tribal EatZ*, will take a regular pop-up food spot, in the garden, right through to the end of summer. The Garden Pizzeria will offer handmade pizza and pasta dishes from 4pm for you to eat in or takeaway.

Later in April we have Saffron Turkish BBQ on the 12th and Tribal EatZ on Easter Saturday 19th. We have other pop-up food events booked on several Saturdays of the year, and even the occasional Sunday, so please keep an eye on our Facebook posts *The Wheatsheaf Maids Moreton* or our unofficial website www.wetglassclub.com

Do you play DARTS and would you like to be a part of the Wheatsheaf darts team? We are aiming to have a dart board up and the oche marked out on the floor by the end of April.

The monthly *open mic* acoustic Sunday music sessions have turned into a very popular event with the occasional sing-along. The next one is on Sunday 27th April and dates are already planned for the rest of 2025. Please ask at the bar if you fancy a spot or call the pub on 01280 822903.

Our Conservatory is available for midweek daytime/evening meetings and small gatherings, at no charge. Email us on thewheatsheafmaidsmoreton@gmail.com

The pub garden is looking great and most welcoming although we still have some work to do during the summer. As always, children and dogs are welcome although please keep the latter on a lead and the former sugar free!

Have a great Spring - **Julian & Wendy.**

5 News from St Edmund's Church

Easter services at St Edmunds include:

6pm Maundy Thursday service - 17 April

3pm Good Friday Meditation - 18 April

10.30am Easter Sunday All Age service - 20 April

Easter Messy church will be on 12th April at 4pm.

Messy church will also be 10 May, 14 June, and 12 July.

We are also running a coffee and craft morning in Dadford Village Hall on 14 April at 10.30 - this is also a free event.

Our informal Cafe church continues at 5pm on the last Sunday of the month.

Our popular weekly community coffee mornings are every Wednesday from 10 to 12noon.

There will be a cream tea afternoon on Saturday 29 March and a Bunny trail round the village from 2 to 5pm on Saturday 5 April.

EVERYONE is always welcome. If you have any questions, please ring the church office on 01280 814430.

Rev. Cathy Pearce – 01280 821976

I am available in the Parish Wednesdays and Thursdays, and at Sunday services.

6 News from Maids Moreton Village Hall



Village halls are held as independent charitable trusts for the communities they serve, so they rely on hire income and the support of local organisations. Maids Moreton has had a village hall for over 100 years and some parts of the current building are over 50 years old.

It is a bright, clean space but we are working hard to give the structure a refresh. We're starting with the roof, so that the hall can continue to provide a comfortable space for celebrations, learning, fitness, clubs and village events, long into the future.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Jumble Sale in January, and for kind donations placed in the collection box. So far £1000 has been raised. We would also like to thank the Wheatsheaf Pub for offering the proceeds of their popular monthly quiz to the roof fund. This is a great start, but we have a long way to go, so if you have a suggestion for a fund-raising event, we really would love to hear from you via the contact details below. It is your village hall.

A big thank you to the Conservation Group for coordinating soup lunches over the winter months. The soups have been delicious. This year the village hall has extended the warm hub into the afternoon offering board games, jigsaws and company. The warm hub and soup lunches finish at the end of March. We would love your feedback, especially if you would like to see refreshments or games continue.

If you are looking for a new interest or an opportunity to meet people, here are some of the regular activities held at the hall:

- U3A Bridge, History, Flower Arranging and Astronomy; Yoga, 60 + Fitness, Brownies, martial arts, W.I, Maids Moreton Conservation Group and Merrymakers;
- Coming up - Treat yourself to a relaxing Spring Yoga Café on Friday 4 April;
- For more information and contact details for all these activities, please see our website under *What's On*;
- You can get notifications about upcoming events and activities by following us on Facebook; and
- The spacious hall and kitchen are available for hire for parties and events. We also welcome enquiries from clubs and activity leaders. Our competitive rates have not gone up this year.

Please see our website more information: maidsmoretonvillagehall.co.uk

For all enquiries and suggestions, contact **Anne** on 07754 101650 or email mmvhlettings@gmail.com

7 News from Maids Moreton CE School

In the last few weeks, the children have enjoyed lots of special events. In keeping with the school's tradition we celebrated World Book Day, with children coming to school dressed as their favourite book characters. I am always impressed with the

ingenuity of the costumes. Throughout the day, they engaged in a number of exciting book themed activities planned by their teachers, including reading with the residents at Maids Moreton Hall.



We have also experienced a number of sporting successes in recent weeks. This has included a 2nd place result for our netball team at the Year 5/6 interschool netball tournament. A team of Key Stage 2 children also took part in the Aylesbury Vale Cross Country Championships and ran very well. Furthermore, our school choir performed songs from “Joseph” to the residents of Maids Moreton Hall as well as at the village soup kitchen, where they were very well received.

Last month, we had a SIAMS [church school] inspection. We were delighted by the outcome and the very positive feedback in the report. This included:

Maids Moreton’s distinctive Christian vision is deeply embedded and underpins relationships and strategic developments. It is built upon a shared understanding of the school as a loving community and enables adults and pupils to flourish.

The shared vision of being ‘small enough to care, large enough to inspire’ wonderfully describes this nurturing community.

The curriculum inspires and motivates pupils. It ignites their desire to learn and reflects the school’s vision to inspire and succeed.

This is a community built on love. The school’s values underpinning the vision, promote exemplary relationships. Purposeful and mutually beneficial interactions beyond the school enhance this and support community cohesion.

Religious education (RE) is a highly valued subject and is carefully planned. It enhances opportunities for pupils to be inquisitive learners and enables them to make good progress.

As a result of exemplary support and care, individuals confidently embrace the vision. They know that they are cared for and are inspired to succeed.

The term will conclude with our annual Easter Service and Easter competition which this year has the theme of *decorate an egg as a musician*.

After Easter, we look forward to our annual May Day celebrations and the children have already started learning their Maypole and Country dances ready for the big day. I am sure our neighbours will have heard those familiar tunes drifting across their gardens.

For further details and photo galleries of what is happening at Maids Moreton CE School, please visit our school website: www.maidsmoreton.bucks.sch.uk

Best wishes,

Keira Ainsworth – Head Teacher

8 News from 1st Maids Moreton Scout Group

Since the beginning of the year, we have been very busy. We started off in January with the Scout section together with several Leaders, the board of Trustees and many parent volunteers collecting Christmas trees in the local area. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and takes a great deal of organizing. It was great to have so many volunteers helping and the day stayed dry for us.



We also took Scouts and Cubs to the Buckingham Pantomime in January. Several of the Group were appearing in the production and we all had a great time.

Earlier in March, we entered two teams of Scouts into the *Endurance 40* event starting in Great Missenden. Our team of older Scouts completed the 40km in just over 10 hours. Our team of younger Scouts managed a brilliant 25km, a huge achievement. We had two teams of Cubs in the 10km event from Chesham to Great Missenden and we all had a great walk, muddy but beautiful sunshine.

The Cubs section has made Bug hotels as part of their DIY badge and have done First Aid, made pancakes, been climbing and planted seeds as part of our Gardening badge.

The Beaver section has been looking at birds and also been climbing, making pancakes and looking at Chinese New Year celebrations as well as walks in the area.

The Squirrel section has had a sleepover, which was great fun for all. They have also looked at Chinese New Year and been litter picking in Maids Moreton and on a Spring walk.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to several leaders from the group and are truly grateful for all they have done for the Group over the years. We are always on the lookout for people to help in all sections; it is great fun and training is available.

Some photos of our activities.

Claire Groves

Lead volunteer for the Group.

Further information and enquiries about places can be obtained from:
info@1stmaidsmoretonscouts.co.uk

9 News from Maids Moreton WI



9th April Meeting

Talk/Tasting on Local Gin –
Foxdenton Estate



14th May Meeting

Tales from the University Bookshop
Alison Cameron



11th June Meeting

Growing Seasonal Flowers with Demo
Jessica Nash



9th July Meeting

Ecoprinting Demo – Exploring the Magic and Alchemy
Fiona Balding

We welcome visitors to our Meetings at a cost of £5

For more information contact **Val Eves** on 07761 251709.

10 News from Buckingham Rugby Union Football Club

Buckingham Rugby Club Spring 2025 Update

As winter transitions to spring, Buckingham Rugby Club's highly successful season is coming to an end. The Men's Six Nations may well be over, but we can look forward to the Lions touring Australia in July. The Women's Six Nations has only just started, but we wait with anticipation of a home Women's Rugby World Cup which kicks off in August.

Both Senior Women's teams have had an excellent season. After an unbeaten first half of the season, Swans Greens (First XV) have won 5 but lost 3 games since Christmas and at the time of writing sit a creditable 3rd in the Championship, 6 points behind Lichfield with two only games left. Unfortunately, an unexpected loss away to Sale in mid-March means they are unlikely to feature in the promotion play offs next month. Swans Whites (2nd XV) have only lost one match all season and sit top of their league by 3 points, with two games to play. They play second placed Rugby Lionesses on 23rd March, which will determine who will win the league.

Buckingham's 1st XV has also had an excellent season, and it is highly likely they will finish in 3rd place with 2 games to play, having won 13 of 20 played to date. Performances this season have been a big step up since last season. The good form of the first half of the season has continued, with notable wins away at Chinnor III's

and a narrow loss at home against second placed Windsor. Runaway champions Oxford Quins IIs were the only team to do the double over Buckingham this season. Meanwhile Buckingham Mitres (2nd XV) are guaranteed 4th place in their league, with 1 game to go. They have 6 wins from 17. The last league fixtures are at home on Saturday April 5th.

Congratulations to ex Buckingham youth players Henry Pollock and George Pearson who both represented England during the recent Six Nations tournaments. Henry came off the bench to win his first full England cap against Wales, scoring 2 tries in the process. George played in the U20s Six Nations, scoring a try against Scotland. This is a huge testament to Buckingham's youth set-up and transition into senior rugby.

Off the pitch the focus will be on the Buckingham Beer and Music Festival, which will take place on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th July.

We will have something for everyone including three bars, live music, a classic car show, Kidzone Entertainment and street food. The music line-up has been announced, and we are planning to have over 75 real ales, ciders and perries on offer.

It promises to be even better than last year.

All Maids Moreton residents will be very welcome!



Tony Hinton – BRUFC Sponsorship and Fundraising
fundraising@buckinghamrugby.co.uk

11 News from Maids Moreton Cricket Club

Maids Moreton Cricket Club is happy to announce our home league fixtures and we encourage everyone to come down and watch us play!

- Saturday 24th May v Great Northampton CC
- Saturday 14th June v Hanslope CC
- Saturday 28th June v Castlethorpe CC
- Saturday 5th July v Bodicote CC
- Saturday 12th July v Evenley CC 2s
- Saturday 19th July v Chipping Warden CC
- Saturday 2nd August v Wardington CC
- Saturday 9th August v Wicken CC
- Saturday 30th August v Printers CC

All matches are on Saturdays and have a 1.30pm start, please come and support us!

Mike Heath

12 News from Maids Moreton Allotments Association

MMAA members have been working hard in recent weeks and there has been much activity happening on site with planting started for many. Our plot-holders can be found working away in all weathers, come rain or shine, to grow their beautiful fresh produce. I am hopeful we shall all enjoy a sunny Easter break.

We had a work party at the allotments recently. So, a big thank you to everyone that attended to help with all the site work; it looked fabulous after they had done.

If you are thinking about growing your own fresh vegetables / fruit and would like to talk to us about the possibility of having a plot, please do get in contact. You are welcome to meet us for a tour. We have a beautiful site and facilities as well as numerous lovely social events throughout the year.

Amy Stairs – MMAA Chair mmaachair@gmail.com

13 The Buckingham Half Marathon

The 7th Buckingham Half Marathon takes place this year at 9.30am on Sunday 11th May. The event is organised by Buckingham and Stowe Running Club and all profits will this year go to Forever Colours, a charity that cares for families of children with learning disabilities and life-limiting or life-threatening conditions.

Runners will follow the usual route as in 2024, starting and finishing, at Maids Moreton playing fields, going through the picturesque villages of Leckhampstead (~ 9.50am), Wicken (~ 10.05am), and Akeley (~ 10.30am) and surrounding countryside. As one runner commented *It is the most beautiful half marathon I have ever run.*

The race starts at 9.30am and all runners should have finished by 12 noon and we're sure they would greatly appreciate any support the local villagers could offer

The event is being sponsored by The House Inspector, and other Buckingham-based organisations; SeemeGP, Russell and Butler Estate Agents, Sheryne SR and MWealth financial advisers. We are also indebted to Maids Moreton and Akeley Parish Councils. Buckingham Town Rugby Club, Buckingham Primary School, Seahawk Trophies, and Swan Practices Medical Services. The list may seem long but it simply reflects the way the local community has got behind the event.

Why not come along and cheer on the runners? Or even enter the race via the link below. The entry fee is superb value at £30 or £28 affiliated and there are trophies for the first three male and female competitors, as well as male and female winners in each of the following age-categories: 40+, 50+ and 60+.

More details, including the best places for spectators can be found at:

<https://buckinghamrunningclub.com/buckingham-half-marathon/>

14 News from Maids Moreton Conservation Group

We continue to meet at the Village Hall on the third Wednesday of each month but do not meet over the summer. The next two meetings are 16 April and 21 May 2025. Meetings start at 7.30pm, there is no membership simply come along for interesting company and discussion with tea/coffee and biscuits and sometimes a speaker.

Our activities in Scott's Lane are now much reduced as birds have started nesting. We shall be tackling the brambles on the footpath from Scott's Lane to Hall Close and in due course cutting back cow parsley before its seeds are ripe to prevent it taking over the verges.

In May 2000, there was a millennium pageant held for three days on Church Green. This was an action packed, costumed event telling the story of our village. We shall be screening and edited version of the filming from the pageant in the Village Hall on Sunday 11 May. This will last some 55 minutes and be followed by teas. We hope for generous donations that will be given to the Village Hall Roof Fund.

Doors will open at 2.30pm for a 2.45pm start. Space will be limited but free tickets will be available from *The Wheatsheaf* on a first come first served basis.

On Sunday 6 April, we shall be doing our annual village litter pick and hoping for volunteers to join us. If you are able to do so, meet at the car park by the Playing Fields at 1.30pm. Please bring gloves and a bin liner, some litter picks will be available. The Parish Council will be doing their litter pick on Mill Lane at the same time. Accompanied children are welcome to come along but no unaccompanied children, please.

For further information on the group and its activities, please contact **Pauline Kneafsey** on 07914 794 963

**ST.EDMUNDS CHURCH
AND MAIDS MORETON CE SCHOOL PRESENT**



EASTER BUNNY TRAIL

AROUND MAIDS MORETON

**SATURDAY 5TH APRIL
2PM - 5PM**

**PRIZE AT THE END OF THE TRAIL
TRAIL SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES
EASTER CRAFT STALL
REFRESHMENTS**



WIN AN EASTER HAMPER



**PICK UP YOUR TRAIL MAP FROM
ST.EDMUNDS CHURCH FOR A DONATION**



PARENT MEETS

ALL PARENTS & CHILDREN WELCOME
STAY & PLAY
TOYS, BOOKS, REFRESHMENTS

First Friday of the month

MAIDS MORETON COMMUNITY BUILDING
AVENUE RD, MAIDS MORETON,
BUCKINGHAM MK18 1QA

9AM-11AM

£1 donation per family welcome

@PARENT_MEETS

The newly refurbished Community Building as well as housing the Café is also available for **private hire** for parties and other events. Bookings can be made by contacting our Clerk, Adele Boughton by phone on 07544 751061 or by Email to: maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com



Maids Moreton Community Café

EVERY TUESDAY

9.30am—12.30pm

AT MAIDS MORETON COMMUNITY BUILDING
(NEAR THE PLAYING FIELDS)



Refreshments



*Children's
Activities*



Book Swap

Donations Welcome • Cash and Cards Accepted



Extra Easter Opening Hours!

Friday 11 April and Thursday 17 April – 9.30am to 12.30pm