

Maids Moreton Parish Council Newsletter



Winter 2025

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James's
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SJP Approved 20/03/2024

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Gerry Millard

We learnt with great sadness of the untimely passing of Gerry in October. He was a parish concillor here for several years and also an enthusiastic and stalwart member of the Buckingham Canal Society, for whom he undertook a wide range of engineering tasks.

Our sincere condolences to Ruth, who was for many years our parish clerk.

1 Parish Council Meetings 2025

Date	Meeting type
5 February 2025	Parish Council Meeting
5 March 2025	Parish Council Meeting
2 April 2025	Parish Council Meeting
7 May 2025	Parish Council Meeting
21 May 2025	Annual Meeting of the Parish

Your Parish Councillors

Graham Maw (Chair)

Patrick Hardcastle (Vice Chair)

Carolyn Cumming

Clare Hodgson

Malcolm Sayers

Two vacancies

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

Streetlights

We are aware of several failed streetlights and have asked our contractor to make repairs. 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!.

2 Parish Council Actions

The Autumn period has been one of preparing for the coming year. We have been out checking trees and removing dead trees on and around the playing fields to improve access for all and to make sure the area is as safe as it can be.

We also had some repairs carried out to the playground surface, where it had been pointed out to the Parish Council in its annual safety report on the playground that there were areas that needed attention. The installer, Komplan, carried out these repairs. Although technically we were out of the one-year guarantee period, their managing director accepted our point that the report had been commissioned within the guarantee period but was not presented to us until one month outside the twelve-month period.

Our *Community Café* continues to thrive; it is currently open on a Tuesday from 9-30 to 12-30pm. Please do come along and support the café and enjoy a good cup of coffee or tea along with homemade cakes. It is hoped to be able to open the café more regularly during school holidays. It is being run by volunteers and there is a suggested donation for coffee and cake. If you are struggling financially, please do not be put off as there is a donation bucket. Any donation is welcome, as it helps the Parish Council to purchase items for the café going forwards.

You are also able to purchase fresh farm eggs from the café, which are supplied by Beckett's Wood Farm on Foscombe Road; this is, of course, as long as the hens and ducks are laying!

Our final project to renovate the building is now completed. This was to box in all the pipes in the toilets. This is the finishing touch to bring the Community Building into the 21st century.

The Community Building is now available to hire for children's parties and adult functions of up to 50 people. (See page 14) If you require information on hiring, please contact Graham Maw by email at: gmaw@maids-moreton.co.uk

3 Planning and Development

There has been no movement with the application to build in Scott's Lane fields (23/01306/APP). We continue to try to find out why it appears to have stalled and will pass on any information we do receive.

The application to vary Condition 13 relating to the foul water drainage scheme for Walnut Drive (24/02780/VRC) was approved on 10 December. However, it appears that there may be a legal challenge to this approval decision but this will not be known until late January. We objected very strongly, as did Buckingham TC and several other parish councils as well as numerous residents; thank you all.

There were 43 new documents and plans posted on 26 November followed by a further 54 on 4 December for the two applications for Reserved Matters approval (23/01636/ADP and 23/02826/ADP). Many were updates and nearly all were complex documents or very large plans. No guide to the detailed changes made was submitted, making it very challenging to provide comments! The Council added these duplicate applications to their Strategic Sites Committee agenda for 19 December but, having received an objection from the Action Group pointing out a significant legal error in their process, it was withdrawn at the last hour. It will, of course, come back.

News from Village and Community Groups

4 News from The Wheatsheaf

The Wheatsheaf said a sad goodbye to Jo and Brad Vyse at the end of October 2024 and welcomed the new Landlord and Landlady, Julian and Wendy Cook. The couple have been residents of Buckingham for many years and Julian grew-up in the village. Some will remember his parents, Ivor and Valerie, particularly Val Cook, who was an active participant in most, if not all, of the village groups and associations.

In the short term there will be few changes as they find their feet. There has been a slight tweak to the opening hours, shown below, along with twice-monthly pop-up food events, on Saturday afternoons and evenings, and an "open mic" style acoustic music session one Sunday each month.

Whilst there are no immediate plans to open the kitchen again, along with the pop-up food events the summer will see Fresh Pizza Friday (every Friday from 4pm from May onwards) when your very own Simon Page from Tribal EatZ will be "spinning the pizza dough".

The monthly quiz night, the first Saturday of the month, continues with Jo as your quiz-mistress, until April when the questions and microphone will be passed onto

Maids Moreton residents, Jayne and Julie. The Wheatsheaf has kindly agreed to donate the proceeds from the quiz night to the Village Hall roof fund.

The pub conservatory is available for private gatherings and can be booked by calling in or on 01280 822903. The pub opens at 12 noon each day (except Monday when it remains closed, for now) and closes at the following times:

Tuesday - 8pm

Wednesday - 10pm

Thursday - 11pm

Friday - 11pm

Saturday - 11pm

Sunday - 8pm

Christmas hours vary and please note, the pub will be closed on New Year's Day and will reopen again on Tuesday 14th January.

More details can be found on the (unofficial) website www.wetglassclub.com or on Facebook by searching for The Wheatsheaf Maids Moreton. You can also email thewheatsheafmaidsmoreton@gmail.com

5 News from Maids Moreton CE School

December was an extremely busy month at school. Our younger children performed their delightful nativities, and our older children performed most professionally in our Carol Service. The children also took part in our annual tradition of whole school mince pie making, and we all enjoyed a very tasty Christmas dinner. During our Christmas parties, our younger children enjoyed a visit from Santa and our school choir visited Maids Moreton Hall to perform to the residents, who were enthralled by their singing. They also sang at Buckingham Rugby Club at the Carers' Christmas party. Our Reception class enjoyed the Christmas experience at Waddesdon and our Years 5 and 6 children attended the Buckingham Upper School performance of Peter Pan.

In January, we have a number of visits planned. Our Years 3 and 4 classes will be visiting the Old Gaol, the Reception class will be visiting the Oxford Museum to learn about dinosaurs and our Years 1 and 2 classes will be going to Whipsnade Zoo. We will also be planning more joint activities with the residents of Maids Moreton Hall and taking part in more interschool sporting competitions.

If you would like to find out more about the life of the school, please visit our Facebook page, or the school website - www.maidsmoreton.bucks.sch.uk

Keira Ainsworth

Head Teacher



6 News from 1st Maids Moreton Scout Group

Since September, all sections have been back at the newly refurbished hut. The new roof has made the hut noticeably warmer.

The Trustees and Leaders provided refreshments for the Bonfire Night celebrations and although we had some challenges, we are so grateful for the support we have from the Maids Moreton Community.

The Scout section, who remained at the field in Akeley until the clocks went back, have been hiking and also took part in the Big “O” event. The biggest highlight of the term was a sailing activity at Caldecotte Lake, Milton Keynes, made possible with the help of a grant that partially paid for the tuition. They were supposed to be learning to sail but, would you believe it, there was absolutely no wind so instead, they took to Powerboats and earned their Powerboat Coxswain badges. Learning how to pick up a *man overboard* and they all had a go at steering the boats; most of the Leaders could not watch but the instructors were very experienced and all the Scouts had a great time. They also had an overnight camp at Braid Wood that they had helped to organise and plan to gain their Campers badge. The troop also took part in the Remembrance Parade and wree at the Christmas Parade. Their end of term activity will be at Ninja Warrior Milton Keynes.



Scouts on the Grymsdike Hike



Powerboat driving

The Cubs have been for an overnight camp at a local Scout hut and looking at the Navigation badge. We also took part in the Big "O" event at Wendover orienteering a route with all the packs from Buckinghamshire as well as participating in the Remembrance Parade in Buckingham. We have been working on our Science badge and Artist badge. We also participated in the Christmas Parade on Saturday 14 December. Our end of term activity will be sledging in Milton Keynes.

Our Beaver section has been hiking and also made scarecrows for the village scarecrow event. They have been telling each other about their hobbies and interests, which goes towards several badges. They also took part in the Remembrance Parade, made props for the Christmas Parade and planned a Christmas Party.

The Squirrel section have been looking at keeping healthy and moving. After half-term, they had an exciting visit to The Fire Station in Buckingham and all got to sit in the fire engine and use the hoses. I think the adults had as much fun as the Squirrels! Thanks to Buckingham Fire Fighters. The Drey also took part in the Remembrance parade and are looking forward to their Christmas Party.

The group also helped the Buckingham Table Santa as he drove around Maids Moreton on 14 December. We thank you all for your continued support.

Further information and enquiries about places can be obtained from:

info@1stmaidsmoretonscouts.co.uk

Claire Groves – Group Scout Leader

7 News from St Edmund's Church

Everyone is welcome to celebrate Christmas at St Edmund's Church:

Sunday 15 th	4pm Christingle
Christmas Eve	4pm Crib Service
	6pm Carol Service
	11.30pm Midnight Communion led by Cathy
Christmas Day	10.30 am Family service led by Hans

We also have a flower festival *The Christmas Story in Flowers* on Saturday 21st from 10 until 5 and Sunday 22nd from 12 to 4, with refreshments.

Our community coffee mornings continue every Wednesday (including New Year's Day) from 10 to 12 in the church.

We have a service every Sunday morning at 10.30 plus Café Church at 5pm on the last Sunday of every month and Messy Church at 4pm on the second Saturday of every month. Everyone is always welcome.

If you have any questions, please ring the church office on 01280 814430.

We wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus.

Rev. Cathy Pearce

01280 821976

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

Jesus said: *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* John 10:10

8 News from Maids Moreton Village Hall

In 1997, a book entitled *Memories of Maids Moreton* was written to raise funds for the kitchen extension of the village hall. On the back of the book, Bernard Stopps explains: *The hall was built in 1921 with money raised in the parish as a memorial to World War I servicemen... We want to bring the village together and make the hall the centre of the community again.* Thanks to their efforts, we continue to enjoy clubs, education, parties and events in our hall.

A small committee of villagers acts as trustees for our hall, which is a registered charity for the village. Every day it hosts activities for all ages from U3A groups to yoga, fitness to Brownies. Now our village hall needs our love and attention again, as we need to renew the roof so that it can continue to provide a comfortable venue for decades to come. During 2025, we will be holding events to raise money and awareness of this valuable facility, and ***we need your support.***

We hope to compile a social history of the hall. Have you or a relative hosted a memorable event at the village hall and have details, or even photos, that you could share with us? Do you have a craft or skill that could raise funds? Please do let us know if you create something that we could sell.

Jumble Sale for the Village Hall Roof Fund

Saturday 11th January, 10.30 – 12.30

Donations in good condition gratefully received - clothes, bric-a-brac, books, toys and games. Why not have a New Year clear out and give your clutter new life? The village hall will be open for donations on Friday 10th January 4 – 6pm and Saturday 11th from 9am.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT HIRE, FUND-RAISING AND STORING GOOD QUALITY JUMBLE DONATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT: mmvhlettings@gmail.com OR 07754101650

Coming Up at the village hall in the New Year!

Maids Moreton Soup Lunch and warm hub returns on Fridays from 12pm

The popular soup lunch is ***free*** due to the kind support of Elmer's Charity, Maids Moreton Conservation Group, the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee. Please feel free to stay in the warm a little longer to enjoy our social space. Board games will be on offer. Tea and cake will be available in the afternoon - donations to the village hall roof fund (See the back page).

9 News from Maids Moreton WI

Our programme for 2025 will start with these events:

- 8 January – Quiz or Games Evening
- 12 February – Singer/Songwriter – Linda Watkins
- 12 March – Talk/Demo on Corn Dollies – Lynette Owen
- 9 April – Quiz Evening – The Members
- 14 May – Tales from a Book Shop – Alison Cameron
- 11 June – My Flower Business - Jessica Naish

Visitors are welcome to attend two meetings without having to pay a subscription and we always look forward to seeing new faces.

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

10 News from Buckingham Rugby Union Football Club

Buckingham Rugby Club Winter 2025 Update

Season's greetings and Best Wishes to everyone in Maids Moreton from Buckingham Rugby Club. In early December, even the atrocious conditions served up by Storm Darragh didn't stand in the way of two superb victories at home for both the Men's and Women's First XVs. Buckingham senior teams are thriving to the extent that we are forming third teams for both the men and women. On Sundays, the Minis & Juniors and the cygnets (girls) continue to flourish at all levels from U6 up to U16. There is a good progression from the youth through the Girls and Boys Academies into the senior teams, with several academy players in-line to play up for the seniors this season.

Buckingham Swans Greens (First XV) are still unbeaten, having played all but one of the other teams in the Championship. They sit top of the league having played 8 games, winning 7 and drawing the other against main title rivals Cheltenham Tigers. Key fixtures in January include a trip to 3rd placed Cheltenham and at home to second placed Lichfield. Buckingham Swans Whites (2nd XV) are also unbeaten and are second in their league on points difference behind leaders Rugby Lionesses, who they play before Christmas.

Buckingham's Men's 1st XV continues to perform well, including notable away wins at Windsor, High Wycombe and Wallingford. Narrow losses at home against league leaders Oxford Quins IIs and second placed Chinnor IIIs demonstrate that Buckingham is extremely competitive this season. They sit 4th in the league having won 7 from 11 at the halfway point in the season in terms of games played. Upcoming fixtures in January include tough home games against Windsor and High Wycombe, together with a trip to Oxford Quins in between. Meanwhile Buckingham Mitres (2nd XV) sit 4th in their league, with 6 wins from 10.

The major success off the field was the completion of two new changing rooms in early autumn. Building started in May and they were completed in early September. The changing rooms were formally opened by the RFU on 12th October. Building of the new changing rooms was a project that was supported by RFU Impact '25, the legacy programme associated with the 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup.

Congratulations to BRUFC's First XV's Jack Wildman who had his head shaved at the President's Lunch and raised over £5,000 for Cancer Research in the process. Harper's Day, BRUFC's annual charity tournament, will take place on Saturday 28th December featuring five men's teams and, for the first time, 2 women's teams will take part. All Maids Moreton residents will be very welcome.

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

11 News from Maids Moreton Allotments Association

If you have a New Year's resolution to start a new hobby or be healthier in 2025, why not grow your own beautiful produce just a few minutes away from home?

Residents of the village always get first priority for allotments so, if this is something you are thinking of, please do get in contact and we shall be happy to walk you around our lovely site and answer any questions you may have. If you wish to do so, you can be added to our waiting list.

We look forward to hearing from you and a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at MMAA.

Amy Stairs – MMAA Chair mmaachair@gmail.com



Maids Moreton Parish Council wishes all our residents a happy festive season and a prosperous New Year

12 Maids Moreton Scarecrow Day – 5 October 2024



Messy Church – Wooden Spoons

Cinderella

Jack

Let your hair down



Usherette

Peter Pan

Puss in Boots

Widow Twankey

Captain Hook



Aladdin

Peter's flown to Manor Park - Winner

The Witch



Widow Twankey

Unusual ice creams!

Magic mirror on the wall

MAIDS MORETON CONSERVATION GROUP

COME and ENJOY

Friendly
chat

Warm
space

Tea and
coffee

Home
made soup

HOT SOUP LUNCHES

EVERY FRIDAY

JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH

VILLAGE HALL 12 - 2pm

ALL WELCOME

Sponsored by MAIDS MORETON PARISH COUNCIL
and The Elmer's Charity

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