

Maids Moreton Parish Council Newsletter



Winter 2024

Website: www.maids-moreton.co.uk

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Let's start a conversation.

PAUL WILDMAN DipPFS

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*Maids Moreton Parish Council wishes all our
residents a happy, healthy and rewarding New
Year.*

1 Parish Council Meetings 2024

| Date | Meeting type |
|-----------------|--|
| 24 January 2024 | Walnut Drive – open discussion meeting |
| 7 February 2024 | Parish Council Meeting |
| 6 March 2024 | Parish Council Meeting |
| 3 April 2024 | Parish Council Meeting |
| 1 May 2024 | Parish Council Meeting |
| 22 May 2024 | Annual Parish Meeting |
| 5 June 2024 | Parish Council Meeting |

Your Parish Councillors

Graham Maw (Chair)

Patrick Hardcastle (Vice Chair)

Ausra Mohandas

Carolyn Cumming

Clare Hodgson

Kenneth McClintock

One vacancy

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

For the diary:

David Wilson Homes will hold an open public consultation event in the Village Hall on Wednesday 24 January 2024. (See page 6 for more details)

Maids Moreton Conservation Group will be running the Winter Soup Café in the Village Hall again every Friday at 12 noon to 2 pm starting 5 January until and including 22 March 2024. (See page 13 for more details)

2 Parish Council Actions

2023 was a very difficult year for both the Parish Council and our parishioners with soaring energy costs. The Parish Council saw its street light costs rise from around £400 per month to over £700 per month. This, along with the increased cost of gas, also saw the running costs of the Scout Hut and Cricket Pavilion soar.

The Scout Hut suffered severe flood damage in December 2022 which resulted in an insurance claim and repairs were not completed until the summer of 2023. We have taken measures to try and make sure that this does not happen again by bringing all water pipes below ceiling level protecting them from frost damage.

On the brighter side, we were able to finally open our new children's playground on the 4 August 2023, thanks to a grant from FCC and Buckingham Community Board. This project was the culmination of four years hard work from your councillors and their support staff. The playground is now able to be used all the year round, and was designed for children aged from 2 to 12.

On the 4 August, we also held our annual Play Around The Parish event that thanks to the good weather attracted nearly 200 children of all ages plus some parents and grandparents. We hope to continue this as an annual event.

Our annual firework display attracted an even larger crowd this year, as it did not fall on the same night as other local events. We managed to collect nearly £700 in our buckets, which went some way to covering the expenditure of £1500, meaning we are able to put on a better display.

Now that we are in 2024, we plan to start renovations of the Scout Hut turning it into a community asset available to all of our villagers to be able to use for private events. We are waiting for the release of Section 106 monies from the Lodge Park development, which are now with Buckinghamshire Council. We applied for the funds in December 2023 and await them.

I hope to be able to update you all at our Annual Meeting on our progress.

3 Planning and Development

Neighbourhood Plan

After a very long gestation starting early in 2016, the Maids Moreton Neighbourhood Plan has finally completed its journey and was approved by the referendum held on 21 December 2023. The Plan now carries full weight in determining planning applications.

The result was 95% voting “Yes” to accept the plan with a turnout of 33%. Both the turnout and the proportion voting Yes were higher than the average for such votes. Thank you to all who took the time to vote.

Scott’s Lane Fields (23/01306/APP)

We are waiting for this application to be determined by the Planning Officer. In the event it were to be approved, we have requested the recommendation be called in to the Committee

Walnut Drive – Reserved Matters – (23/01636/ADP)

Jonathan Walton, the DWH community engagement consultant, has booked the Village Hall for 24 January 2024 to hold a public consultation event on the Walnut Drive application. He will come together with his specialist colleagues and run an exhibition and feedback event. There will be an open session in the afternoon starting around 2.30pm until 5pm then again from 6.30pm until 8pm.

We shall hold an open discussion meeting starting shortly after 8pm at which people can make their views on the consultation event known.

Moreton Rd 3

The planning consent was called by the Secretary of State and resulted in a review by a planning inspector, which was completed on 31 October. The Inspector’s report has been sent to the Secretary of State for consideration and a decision will be issued on or before 4 March 2024.

News from Village and Community Groups

4 News from Maids Moreton CE School

The children have all returned to school with anticipation for the Spring term ahead. In January, we have a number of visits planned. Our Year 5 class will be visiting the Milton Keynes Mosque, the Reception class will be visiting the Oxford Museum to learn about dinosaurs and our Year 2 children will be taking part in an interschool singing event. Later in the term, a team of our Year 3 and 4 children are excited to be taking part in a football tournament at the Royal Latin School. We will also be planning more joint activities with the residents of Maids Moreton Hall.

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. Whilst our Key Stage 2 children were at the Carol Service, our younger children enjoyed a visit from Santa. Our newly formed school choir also visited Maids Moreton Hall to perform to the residents who were enthralled by their singing.

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



To contact the school, please email the office on office@maidsmoreton.bucks.sch.uk or telephone 01280 812058.

5 News from 1st Maids Moreton Scout Group

All four sections have had a busy term, taking part as a group in the orienteering event in Wendover, Buckingham Remembrance Parade and Buckingham Christmas Parade.

The Cubs and Scouts had teams entered into the timed event and finished in second place out of the whole County.

Our new Squirrel section is settling in really well and we welcome two new adult volunteers to the leader team. We are looking forward to our first sleepover event in January.



The Wendover Orienteering event



The Senior Scout Hike



Scout map cake



Cub crudities and houmous

The Beaver section has been very busy and joined the Cub section for a sleepover and skills event in September where, amongst the activities, we had to make vehicles from fruit and vegetables, learn how to iron and fold our scarves, how to use a potato peeler and knife safely, and how to set an alarm clock correctly. We also had to build a tower from wooden kebab sticks strong enough to hold a cup of water and had a glow stick disco. The section also had an evening where they made miniature canoes, this was after some of them saw that the Scout section had made a full-size canoe earlier in the year.

The Cub section has had a busy term including our annual chip shop hike, a firm favourite with all, a local knowledge hike around Maids Moreton, an astronomy evening and making robots. To get their DIY badges, they had to design their robot then, with support, saw the wood, use a drill, hammer, *etc.* The Cubs really enjoy making something and, with plenty of adults to supervise and careful planning, we did not need to use our First Aid skills! We also took our chef badge by making pizzas and houmous with crudities which looked very appetising. For our end of term evening, we went to an indoor climbing centre in Milton Keynes. It was wonderful to see both children and adults challenging themselves to have a go.

The Scout section have taken part in The Grymsdyke hike in the south of the County, which involves map reading and hiking; they finished second out of the whole County and completed the course in a faster time than last year. They have been to an indoor golf course in Milton Keynes and another favourite activity of making map cakes where they are given a map square to recreate in cake form so they have to plan what resources to use to best represent the features of the square. There was also a hike and overnight camp for the older Scouts in October around Milton Bryan near Woburn. The Scouts cooked their own food and, although it rained overnight, we survived.

The Group has also been raising funds by providing refreshments at the Maids Moreton Bonfire night, collecting with the Buckingham Table Santa Float and at the Christmas Parade.

We were also delighted to have a Leader represent the Group at the request of Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales for the Carol Service in Westminster Abbey.

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

Claire Groves, Group Scout Leader

6 News from St Edmund's Church

St Edmund's Church continues with its regular pattern of a 10.30am service every Sunday and a Community Coffee morning from 10am to 12 noon every Wednesday and EVERYONE is welcome.

Messy church for children and their families will be at 4pm on Saturdays 20 January, 17 February, 23 March our EASTER special and 20 April.

Lent will start with an Ash Wednesday service at 12 noon on 14 February and there will be a special Mothering Sunday service on 10 March.

We have a fortnightly Bible study on a Monday evening and a monthly one on a Thursday morning, plus there will be a weekly Bible study during lent, leading to a Maundy Thursday celebration on 28 March.

At Easter we will have services across the Parish on Good Friday 29 March and Easter Sunday 31 March.

The church also has a craft group, a gardening group and a singing group, and new members are always welcome.

For more information, or to speak to someone, please ring the church office 01280 814430 or check the website www.nbpchurches.org.uk

Everyone is welcome!

7 News from Maids Moreton WI

Maids Moreton WI celebrated the festive season with a members evening at their December meeting . Members enjoyed a tasty buffet and took part in a Christmas quiz while catching up with friends . The final event of the year was a Carol Concert at St Edmunds Church .

Our January meeting on Wednesday 10th is a beetle drive which is always a fun evening while in February we learn about the history of the cinema.

May we wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year in 2024 and remind you that **visitors are most welcome to our meetings** which are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall.



8 News from Maids Moreton Conservation Group

WINTER SOUP CAFÉ

MAIDS MORETON CONSERVATION GROUP

INVITES YOU TO MEET UP WITH FRIENDS AND ENJOY

BOWL OF HOMEMADE SOUP, TEA AND BISCUITS

EVERY FRIDAY FROM 12 – 2 PM

IN THE WARM VILLAGE HALL

JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH (not 29th)



Sponsored by MAIDS MORETON PARISH COUNCIL
and ELMER'S CHARITY

For further information ring **Pauline Kneafsey** 07914 794 963

Scott's Lane

Do you enjoy being outside, doing something useful with a bit of company?

Please join Conservation Group members 10am - midday (or part of) on Thursdays from **22 February**. Bring gloves and secateurs. Our aim is to continue caring for Scott's Lane. Also, accompanied children will be welcome to join in our activities during Half Term **Thursday 15 February**, starting at 10am prompt.

For more information, call **Lyn Robinson** 01280 813 014.

Stevie Lishman

Chair - Maids Moreton Conservation Group

9 News from Maids Moreton Allotments Association

It has been a very wet and soggy start to the year this year at Maids Moreton allotments but our plot holders have made a wonderful start.

We have our AGM on Sunday 4th February at 10.30am; it will be held in “The Shed” – much more comfortable than the name implies! - at the allotments.

And we have our MMAA quiz night, which will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 27th January at 7pm, including a light supper for just £12 pp. We still have a couple of tables left so please contact Alan if interested on mmaasec@gmail.com . It is set to be a great night.

If you have a New Year’s resolution to start a new hobby or to be healthier in 2024, why not grow your own beautiful produce just a few minutes away from home?

Residents of the village always get first priority on allocation of plots so, if this is something you are thinking of, please do get in contact and we shall be happy to walk you round our lovely site and answer any questions you may have; if you like what you see and hear, you can be added to our waiting list.

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

Amy Stairs

MMAA Chair

mmaachair@gmail.com

10 News from Buckingham Rugby Union Football Club

Buckingham Rugby Club Winter Update 2024

As we start the New Year, the 2023-24 season is already more than halfway through and last year's World Cup in France is a distant memory. Improved performances by Buckingham men's First XV see them sitting comfortably mid-table in Counties 1, Southern North, including convincing victories over Milton Keynes, Rams IIs and Bracknell IIs. Next up are games against Wallingford on 6th January at home and away to league leaders Beaconsfield on the 14th which could prove to be a difficult trip.

Swans Ladies First XV are in a league below the Premiership, which sees them travel as far afield as Manchester, Newcastle and Cheltenham. Although they have won only 3 of their 9 games so far in their league, they lost narrowly on the road to both Barnsley Ladies and Sale Ladies, so hopes are high that they can stay in the league for next season. Next up in January are games away to Bishop Auckland Ladies on the 7th and Cheltenham Tigers Women at home on the 14th.

The annual Harpers Day charity tournament took place on Saturday 30th December, despite the extremely wet conditions over the festive break. Overall some 250 spectators watched four teams compete, which raised a very creditable £2,000. This year we have nominated the Buckingham Mayor's Charities as the beneficiary. The Mayor will use the donation to support Buckingham and Winslow Young Carers and the Buckingham Food Bank.

Meanwhile, the amendment to our previously approved application for 2 new changing rooms has now been passed by Buckinghamshire Council. Work is scheduled to start in May, with an anticipated 12 week build, so they should be complete for the start of the new season. The RFU have confirmed grant funding, acknowledging the strong status of our Ladies section. Other fundraising continues including regular Music and Comedy Nights and Age Group fundraising.

After last year's highly successful event, planning has already started for the 12th Buckingham Beer and Music Festival, which will be held on the 5th and 6th July, where some 50 real ales and 20 ciders will be on offer. All Maids Moreton residents will be very welcome!

Tony Hinton - BRUFC Fundraising and Sponsorship

2023 Scarecrow Day – ‘Scary Musicians and Pop Idols’



1 – Shirley Temple



2 – The Percussionist



3a – H Styles at School



3b – SL Interloper



4 – F 'Hall CI' Mercury



8 – Abbey Road – the Winner!



5 – Kate Bush



6 – Ed Shearin



7 – F 'Pub' Mercury



9 – Brian Hay



10 – ZZ Topp



11 – Frank Sinatra



12 – David 'H'oey



13 – The Pied Piper



14 – F 'MM Hall' Mercury

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