

Summer
2014

Beneath the Vale

Published on behalf of Upper Marshwood Vale
Parish Council

Wisdom alights

Wisdom is a 6 foot high owl and lives at a tiny hamlet deep in the Vale. Before panic strikes local wildlife, she is wooden, carved from the base of a large tree close to the corner that is Blackney.

The story starts with the fully grown tree which was “causing problems for the people opposite” according to Melanie Fernell, the daughter of Doreen and John Knight who had long owned the farm and is a regular visitor to the area.

The Fernells came up with the idea of turning the trunk into something special appreciated by all especially the farm’s holiday visitors. When they realised what a talented chain saw artist could do to substantial tree trunks, they got onto the internet and discovered Matthew Crabb, the Exmoor-based English Chainsaw Carving champion.

Matthew explains how he carves: “I use a range of chainsaws which enable me to carve from very large pieces of timber, progressing to smaller chainsaws for finer detailed sculpting. Chainsaw carving can be done in any place that it is possible to stand by the timber.”



Great
Wisdom

What he does is extraordinary: some of his work can be seen locally at Abbotsbury Sub Tropical Gardens where fallen tree trunks have become works of art.

Liking what they saw, the Fernells asked Matthew to look at the tree and hence where the owl would roost. The deal was struck and work started.

Matthew has signed Wisdom; his website is burnt into a plank tucked discretely to one side:

matthewcrabb.com.

In the meantime, locals expect the junction soon to become known as Owl Corner!

Your Vale News



A reminder of May's magnificent bluebells
photos and montage by Melissa Edwards

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Heart Defence

Public Access Defibrillator installed at Kittwhistle Garage

*Now installed near enough to reach many parts of Marshwood within the vital first few minutes, a new piece of kit will save lives. **Jacqui Sewell**, co-ordinator for the Broadwindsor Community Responders explains:*

A Public Access Defibrillator or PAD purchased with help from The British Heart Foundation, is being installed at Kittwhistle Garage by The Broadwindsor and District Community Responders & Broadwindsor and District Community Enterprise. This defibrillator is in addition to the one in the Responder vehicle, which, because of diminishing numbers of Responders is unable to attend all local callouts.

Also called an Automated External Defibrillator, the unit diagnoses the heart problem and, if needed, shocks the heart back towards a normal rhythm. In the hands of professionals and laypeople without medical training, these devices can reduce the impact of heart attacks tenfold.

Now highly reliable and lower cost, these are to be seen clearly marked in many public places. Cardiac arrest is often caused by loss of the heart rhythms which stops the heart beating. If the defibrillator discovers the condition it can reset the organ with an electric shock.

Defibrillators are incredibly easy to operate and a FREE training course run by Red Cross Trainer, Phil Lathey for all interested people, will be held in Blackdown Hall at 7.30pm Tuesday 29th July. Grateful thanks go to Rowland Hibbard for allowing the PAD to be installed on his premises and to Philip Hardwill of PH Hardwill's for helping with the installation and Phil Lathey who will be providing the defibrillator training.



Just after this photo, Jacqui (r) attended a heart attack victim

A Plan to end all Plans



Oh No! Not another plan - we've had a local plan, district plan, development plan and now there's a Neighbourhood Plan!

Why should we take any more notice of this than the others, after all it doesn't make any difference?

Well not all these plans fester to dust in a locked filing cabinet deep under Dorchester.

Our own Parish Plan has led to some changes and more will follow. Planning consent is often based on an overall Local Plan, changes to which are still being worried over by council officials and councillors.

But a Neighbourhood Plan is supposed to be different and it is meant to be democratic. It is probably a local idea as it is part of our own Oliver Letwin's Localism Bill, now a law. The idea is to hand back control of the future of our own area to the residents in a fair, sensible, practical and, most of all, in a democratic way.

It does not give super powers to your council, parish, district or county, nor does it tell residents what is to be inflicted on our community. Indeed we could ignore having a neighbourhood plan as some local

parishes have already indicated - but this opt-out means they will have no part in running their own future.

So what is the Neighbourhood Plan?

If you remember back to the Parish Plan, some residents and a couple of councillors organised discussions, a survey, more discussions, thought about many aspects of community life before coming up with a Plan. This was discussed and the parish council adopted it. But there was nothing in the Plan that **had** to happen - it was, at best, what we all wanted.

Yet we are getting the new homes we asked for, delayed by some but now under way. And broadband will arrive far sooner and much faster than we expected. More modestly, you are reading this because a magazine for the community was set out in the Parish Plan.

What Localism has added is that now we can say what we want for our community via a Neighbourhood Plan and make our expressed wishes stick as official policy.

What we decide for homes, work, transport, shops, local resources generally now becomes official policy so our planners will help us get what

we want, rather than deciding what we need.

At its most basic the Neighbourhood Plan is a Parish Plan on steroids.

In reality it is a process to make and control progress or stability for our community. It does not override national policy, that would be too silly, so no bringing back the death penalty for the 4 parishes and we retain our AONB status.



As a process it is very sensible with committees and working groups, so is probably going to be somewhat tedious but this means everyone can have their own say and put up their own ideas. When the Plan is finally drafted and put before the residents it has to be passed by a local referendum.

We decide.

Well, not entirely. Before the referendum the overall plan will be examined independently to ensure the plan

- has regard to national planning policies and guidance
- contributes to achieving sustainable development

- is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan
- is compatible with European Union law and human rights obligations

What areas of community life could this Plan cover?

So far we have heard mention of housing, employment, transport, communications, shops and local resources, local businesses, all of which would seem to have relevance for us all hence could be part of the process.

Marshwood Vale has many barns some no longer in use. Perhaps the Plan could ensure unused space be converted to workshops for creating low volume, high value products from fine furniture to specialist machinery, to mini call centres or,

when superfast broadband trickles down, internet services for world-wide consumers. There is a poignant irony of working in an ancient environment to deliver tomorrow's newest technologies.

Or we could look at mini industrial parks tucked away in distant farmyards to give low cost accommodation for new ideas. The Neighbourhood Plan should help us to decide where, when and how, and most of all, if changes are needed.

It will not finance new ideas; these are for entrepreneurs, and businesses perhaps backed by other support initiatives such as Chalk and Cheese and Local Enterprise Partnerships. It simply removes some obstructions for a good idea and stops a future bad move for the

community.

Much is made of these plans creating the best environment for developments of benefit to the community, but this has to be balanced against sustaining the present benefits of the environment and community.

Another feature of Neighbourhood Plans is that they define the area to be covered, from less than a parish to a whole town and its surrounding dormitory villages. Other parishes who have started on their Neighbourhood

Plan seem to prefer to co-operate with other neighbouring parishes and UMV has hosted a meeting with representatives from Broadwindsor, Netherbury, and Thorncombe. Also present from Char Valley was a councillor who made clear his scepticism of the whole process.

Your council subsequently decided that the co-operative idea was more suitable for our and neighbouring communities, in contrast to Broadwindsor who want to run their own plan.



St Mary's the Virgin, Marshwood

The Birdsmoorgate Branch of the Royal British Legion commissioned a plaque to be hung in the church. It lists the fallen in World Wars 1 & 2 as inscribed on the Marshwood war memorial.

At a cost of £288, the money was raised with a coffee morning held at the home of Captain Edwin Atkinson, R.N. along with a donation from the parish council.



The plaque will be dedicated at the 0930 service on 3rd August, marking hundred years since World War 1 started, candles will be lit and the Last Post sounded.

Affordable homes start!

For the village, Wednesday 9th July 2014 marked a very special day.

As promised builders, Brookvale Homes started work on 'our' affordable homes. Led by contracts manager Tim Barnes the Thane Farm field was carefully measured and paced out with marker posts outlining the boundaries and where key features will spring up.

Marshwood's District Councillor, Mike Robinson looked back to when it all started: *"After 10 years of discussions plans and proposals I am delighted that we have started to build these homes. It is fantastic that we have now made the giant stride forward. I now look forward to getting these homes up and occupied."*

Key Marshwood moments in the history of affordable homes included:

acceptance of Mike's ideas in the Parish Plan,

starting a steering committee to examine funding options,

public meetings where these options were put to residents,

listing more applicants than homes,

creation of a Community Land Trust with membership open to supporters,

forceful leadership of a team led by chairman David Hitchcock, **working relationship** with Hastoe Housing, **land** being found on acceptable terms, **funding** from the Housing and Communities Agency.

As elsewhere, not all agreed with the project and, as elsewhere, dissenters opposed decisions so delayed the homes, but now the work has been started, villagers' pleasure in supporting the less fortunate is palpable.

With the grass and topsoil stripped away, some going to become gardens being left nearby, some dispersed into the local fields, some being stored, inquisitive Marshwood residents can see where the homes are going to be erected.

As you read this, trenches following the outline of each of the homes should be being dug and after the new access road is cleared and laid down, these should be ready for concrete to be poured to make the foundations.

A good sign was the placing of the noticeboard telling us all what, who how and when. And for some it is 42 weeks and counting.



**Thane Farm at last becomes a building site
for the 8 affordable homes**

Roads Work

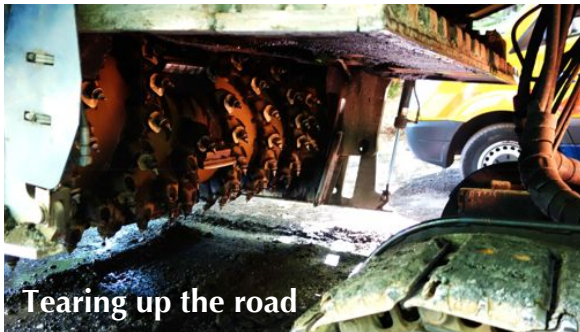
Driving to Bridport from Marshwood most villagers were not best pleased to find Mutton Street closed at the stream bridge just up from Marshwood Cross a couple of months ago. A perfectly serviceable bridge was to be torn down and repaired closing the road for a couple of weeks.



Nothing wrong with the bridge

Now major works to the Marshwood motorway, B1365 are underway at Lamberts Castle with traffic diverted for over 30 miles.

In-places rutted and dodgy, the old surface has been ripped up by this planer and 300 tonnes is being removed every day to be replaced by nice new layers.



Tearing up the road

Yet halfway down Mutton Street just over a mile above the bridge the carriageway is collapsing into foot-wide, yard-deep chasms that are spreading across the road.

So what is going on?

Have we been forgotten by the same people who so lovingly levelled and made smooth the section of the B3165 through Marshwood village?

It is not quite as simple as that.

The main road repairs have long been scheduled, delayed and rescheduled, and involved cutting back the old surface and building up two new surface layers, all laser-guided to give a finish to the same standard as the Marshwood section.

Rather than a temporary bodge or short-term fix we are getting what amounts to a new road, but as Dorset Highway's man in charge Dave Norman points out: "the machinery needed to lay the surface to such a high standard is too wide to do each carriageway individually. This means we have to completely close the road."

So drivers through Marshwood get a delay in their journey, many being diverted via Broadwindsor and Salwayash for those that know, but via Beaminster and Bridport for the unfamiliar driver. Villagers of course had a much better short cut or two in mind.

But what of Mutton Street before it too slides off the hillside into the ditch?

This also depended on the main road closure substantially reducing B 3165 traffic since a similar problem is taking place just before Marshalsea, where the south -east verge was collapsing. As the main relaying work around Lamberts Castle is taking place, a second team will stabilise the ground with sheet piling and back filling. This work was scheduled to take about 8 days before the team moved a mile or so to the minor road that is Mutton Street and its more serious dramatic collapse. BTV was present last year when the initial problem was checked by Dorset Highways but since then the splits had widened and deepened, and the surface collapsed.

The problem has been that heavy vehicles often far too weighty for what is a lightly built narrow country lane regularly use this stretch of road.

A similar pile technique was used to fix down and build up the verge into a stable bank able to take the load of increasingly heavy vehicles that now use this section of Mutton Street.

And this increasingly weighty traffic is why the bridge needed the work.

There was indeed nothing faulty but the inspection team, aware of the limitations of the old structure decided to play it safe and strengthen it to take 44 tonne loads!



A yawning chasm splits Mutton Street

So all these road changes are part of a very cunning plan for best efficiency and minimum inconvenience to road users.

Others may be less happy at the interruption to the traffic, but when road repairs are needed Dorset highways are doing a job that should be good for 15 years or more.



The scrap road chippings trucked off to be recycled into a footpath

Million Pound Man



Driving broadband, Charles Somers

Not only has Marshwood's dreaded broadband blackspot been eliminated, it has turned green on Dorchester's broadband map which means that Superfast Dorset will start work on rolling out their fibre broadband in the Vale next year, much sooner than expected.

As we have previously indicated this has been as a result of tireless efforts of our own 'Mr Broadband', Charles Somers who started as our own broadband leader, eventually expanding his community and his efforts to running the Dorset Community Broadband Forum on behalf of all the hard-to-reach parts of our county. But for us there is now a £1,000,000 pot to give residents of 'Marshwood,

Broadwindsor, Bettiscombe, Stoke Abbott, Thorncombe and surrounding parishes' the same Superfast service now becoming available at new green boxes in Bridport, Chideock, Charmouth and Lyme Regis.

Support for Charles' work has come from the top: Communications Minister Ed Vaizey says: *"This additional funding is excellent news for the Marshwood Vale area and the extra £1 million will take superfast broadband to communities that would otherwise have had to wait."*

And from his personal knowledge County Councillor for Marshwood, Daryl Turner:

"Charles Somers worked tirelessly to co-ordinate and channel the desperation of residents and businesses in the vale for faster, more reliable broadband. He collected the evidence that was needed in this area where current speeds are particularly low."

"The Superfast Dorset project provided the technical information required by Government to approve the scheme. It was a fantastic joint effort and will make a huge difference to people's lives, enabling businesses and communities to thrive in this beautiful but remote corner of Dorset."

Charles had lined up support from our MP Oliver Letwin right from the start. BTV was party to early and strategic discussions which, over 2 years later, have born fruit.

"This is great news. It means we will have full superfast broadband earlier than would otherwise have been possible.

Charles also had the backing of all the four district and county councillors involved with our parish: Jacqui Sewell, Rebecca Knox and Mike Robinson as well as Daryl Turner, all of whom exerted more than a little influence after the initial county-wide broadband plan was launched with BT as contractors at Lulworth Castle last summer but this soon showed the limitations of the main campaign to bring Superfast Broadband to Dorset.

To our horror those computer-generated BT plans completely ignored Marshwood village and seemed to promise even less than we were getting at present.

Charles was by this time an old hand at the process of changing peoples mind. His involvement had started as a result of the UMV Parish Plan when he found himself leading a small group of residents to a series of tedious Dorchester meetings where the county's officials changed faster than the ideas.

But through all this, as County got their Superfast team together it became clear that a small percentage of residents would be uneconomical to connect under the country-wide, county-driven scheme for rural broadband.

This percentage steadily dropped - GOOD - but Marshwood was not likely to be in the 97% who would benefit - BAD!



**Pushing for broadband,
Oliver Letwin MP**

With Charles' analyses detailed down almost to green box level before them, your Marshwood broadband group agreed with his conclusion - Marshwood was too distant, too thinly populated, too difficult so too costly to wire up under the main plan.

So even though Charles and his loyal team had from the very outset led community involvement Dorset-wide, his own parish, Marshwood's urgent needs were to going to be ignored in favour of others

But like all heroes, Charles had a cunning plan called DEFRA; the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had funds for broadband in very rural areas since they now require farmers to process their paperwork by the internet. So Charles gathered support, applied and was indirectly successful.

He recalls: *"We knew Superfast Dorset was unlikely to reach the Marshwood Vale and that we would need additional funding. With its small hamlets, dispersed population and hills, it was probably going to be too expensive to be included in Superfast Dorset's original plans.*

Almost 200 residents and businesses wrote in to support the proposals. With this phenomenal community backing, we worked with the Superfast Dorset team to build a strong case for extra funding".

So strong that one crazy answer that popped out of BT's mighty planning computer even suggested that the all Marshwood homes should be connected by fibre optic cable, the most expensive option usually only needed by specialist communication or larger businesses. If this were to happen Marshwood would have been promoted from the worst connected part of Dorset to the best.

But behind the scenes a better solution has been created by installers BT, and now endorsed by Superfast Dorset in Dorchester. A whole potpourri of funds has been made available and integrated into the rural broadband funds - including that cash from DEFRA.

This deals with us but still allows funding to other 'Marshwoods' where the plans or finance fall short.

So at last, after years of efforts, we will get proper broadband to be delivered next year.

What this will mean to us was made clear by Phil Gordon who runs KaaBoom Marketing in one of many 'thank you' messages that staggered slowly onto Charles computer:

"BRING IT ON!!!!

Last month I had two weeks of around 400kb download speed - dreadful and almost impossible to work from home as a small business"

For your broadband details go to
mapping.dorsetforyou.com/superfast/availability/map



A Safer Way to school

Ali Edwards wants a safer, healthier way to get young children to school and back home again

There have been several suggestions put forward

to both Parish Council and our Marshwood Community Land Trust highlighting the need for a safe way for parents with young children to walk from the village to the school.

Marshwood is surrounded by beautiful countryside and has some fantastic places to walk however for safety, many feel the need to drive out of the village, park then walk.

With a safer way to walk to the school and church, all pedestrians would be able to access Mutton Street and then on to the entire Vale so to get a real benefit from our magnificent countryside.

With the affordable housing due for completion in early 2015 the new residents would also be able to walk safely down to the shop/post office and garage. Currently the school transport department at Dorset County Council, provides seats on a bus or a taxi service for children in the village to travel the half a mile to

the school; with a safe route to school these children will be able to walk.

There was a meeting held on June 5th at Marshwood School which was well attended by district councillors, parish councillors, school and parent representatives.



After a discussion about the benefits of a safe route from the lower part of Marshwood to the school there was a suggestion that coloured road markings could be beneficial

or a give way in one direction system.

The group walked up and down the road and agreed that the pinch point at Foxdown Farm should be deemed a potential danger point as one councillor, then with small children, showed where she had leapt for her life.

Backing the Group, at its meeting in June, the Parish Council agreed to apply to Dorset District Council for a safety assessment on the road so that any options for pedestrians could be explored further.

Quality Council Reports



Impressive, but not your present council

Since Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council was granted the status of Quality Council it has changed - hopefully for the better. Perhaps this may be a self-fulfilling prophecy, perhaps we have had some serious debates, maybe important planning advice to give.

What is certain is that we seem to attract more members of the public to our meetings.

At each of our regular venues councillors set out a long thin T of tables which allows the chairman Roland Bugler and clerk John Vanderwolfe to face both councillors sat each side of the T and the members of the public who are given chairs facing the council T, an arrangement which allows everyone in the hall to hear and see each other.

Included in every agenda is a Democratic Period when the chairman invites, even encourages members of the public to have their say. It is this point at which recent council meetings have become lively. Subjects included the perceived bias of this magazine described as a one-man band, and the strong

feelings aroused by the proposed change of use of the Shave Cross Inn.

Ironically as a 'member of the public' lambasted councillors and clerk for failing to announce a parish council meeting properly, more chairs were being sought for yet more members of the public who had somehow discovered the meeting was happening.

Bush telegraph at work?

Coincidentally, councillors had felt that their own broader-ranging agendas were not being reflected in this magazine, while some members of the public complained of inaccurate reporting of council events published weekly.

So the BTV team have offered to write up each council meeting into a simple report of events and to make this available to the local press in the form of a press release. Not meant for publication, a press release informs a newspaper of an event of interest.

It is not the same as the Council's minutes which will continue to be on the website, this less formal and not a full official record, rather it is narrative in nature and available in a news time frame. In this context it represents the council's point of view but is shaped to give an impression of the meeting for anyone not present. No credit for the work is sought or given and the release is offered to guide the editor or reporter with the news event and background facts. The result so far has been favourable as an accurate and fair report of events have appeared in the Bridport News.

This work may well help the accurate reporting of the council but could well be of wider interest. Until recently the council has met every two months with the

A sample from one report when the council meeting had to be abandoned:

"Mr xxxxx continued to shout down any sensible discussion until a police officer, in attendance for their routine briefing of the council on police matters, insisted he sit down and allow the situation to be quietly discussed.

"Are you arresting me?" questioned Mr xxxxx.

"No sir, I am accompanying you to your seat." came the officer's cool reply."

alternative month's meetings provisionally set aside for planning matters. Now the council regularly has enough work to meet monthly. So the council meetings are now more or less in step with Beneath the Vale's publication dates.

Your editorial board has decided to print a version of future releases to keep all residents informed of council actions. So from the next issue we will be either keeping residents fully abreast of local council matters in pursuit of democracy or boring you all to distraction.

No doubt you will let us know!

And the Shave Cross debate:

"Feelings based on the historic value of the iconic pub, the amenity value to the community of Marshwood Vale, the effect on many farmhouse and holiday cottage businesses were combined with sympathy for the difficult trading conditions the owners face. The Council refused their approval, but has no authority to determine the request, merely advising with others, WDDC planning officers and councillors who will now decide."

Bashing the Balsam

“The very people who were meant to preserve our natural species actually brought it in to the country - Kew Gardens!” - Ewan Dickenson’s introduction to the latest threat.

“Himalayan Balsam may only be a few inches tall in their native mountains but in our rich soils and damp climate it grows invasively and swiftly, one of the initial attractions for the owners of gardens and estates countrywide.”

In the late summer when the ripe pods are disturbed, several hundred seeds per plant will explode over a wide area. Although it will grow wherever the seeds land, rivers and streams spread it further especially when flooding.

So catchments such as the Axe and Yarty valley are particularly vulnerable to the tall annual which, at up to 3 meters in height, suppresses the native plants and weakens the banks to allow erosion so Natural England is campaigning to eradicate the invader.



Ewan Dickenson

Animals can safely graze the crops and this does suppress their growth but areas such as hedgerows remain out of reach so are almost as vulnerable as the watercourses.

Our vale may be less affected than our neighbouring valley but the threat remains as Marshwood resident and Natural England team leader Ewan Dickenson warns:

“We are creating community action groups to spread awareness and monitor the advance of the unwanted guest as well as volunteers organised into ‘balsam bashing’ work parties to remove it by pulling or strimming before the seeds are spread.”



**Impatiens glandulifera -
Himalayan Balsam**

**Natural England
07554 439207**

Elderflower cordial

Makes approximately 3 litres

70	just-opened elderflower heads (preferably picked in the evening)
2kg	of sugar
2 litres	of boiling water
150g	citric acid
5	lemons

Shake the elderflower heads outside to remove any insects. Mix the sugar with the water in a large pan and stir until dissolved.

Stir in the citric acid.

Zest the lemons, slice and add both zest and slices to the pan.

Gently stir in the elderflower heads, cover and leave for 24 hours.

Strain through double muslin and decant into sterilised bottles.

Use 1/2 litre plastic water bottles and the cordial can be frozen in small quantities to be used throughout the year.



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Editorial

Beyond the Vale

This issue seems to be about a bit more than the Upper Marshwood Vale; not by design or part of someone's cunning plan, it just happened. A quick glance back shows:

The new defibrillator lives at Kittwhistle in another parish yet is vitally nearer to Marshwood end of our parish than is Stoke Abbott.

The affordable homes: our community land trust has a catchment area to match the school so is more than the Vale.

What is happening to the Axe valley will, sooner or later affect us as well.

Rural broadband funding includes other nearby parishes besides Marshwood.

Via the Neighbourhood Plan process your council, wants to work with other parishes.

So if the theme of this summer's Beneath the Vale is co-operation with nearby and similar parishes, surely this wider vision of our neighbourhood is good for us all.

Council Meetings

As indicated elsewhere, Beneath the Vale intends to keep residents informed about what the council is doing. But a far better way of finding out is to come to these meetings. There has been a real trend in recent months for members of the public to make their views known to councillors.

It is a great regret that the conduct we have recently seen has forced the council to limit duration and number of speeches from each person, but the public are very welcome whether speaking or just listening.

In contrast, many have found that, after the council meeting is over,

chatting with councillors informally is often an effective a way of persuasion.

Please do come to the council meetings; whilst they are not always described as fun, much of what we do is important to many of us or very important for just a few. Most planning applications are not important to the community at large, but certain key planning applications and trends are.

Enjoy the debate, you may think that what is spoken may be rubbish, but at least it is our rubbish

**Council Meetings this autumn
at Shave Cross Inn**

@ 7.30 pm September 18th

@ 7.30 pm October 16th

@ 7.30 pm December 4th

**Find out what's happening
All residents are welcome**

The silly page is getting noticed

SWEET DREAMS
ARE MADE OF
CHEESE, WHO AM
I TO DIS A
BRIEF?

THE JACK
HORNER

WELL
BEHAVED
CHILDREN
WELCOME

THE REST WILL
BE MADE
INTO PIES!

SOUP of
the DAY



Whiskey

Higgs Boson walks
into a church
Priest: "Get out we
don't allow Higgs Boson
in here
Higgs Boson: "But
without me how can
you have MASS?"

an apple a day
keeps anyone away
if you throw
it hard enough

THE
LORD NELSON
RESTAURANT

THE OLD
FIRE STATION

nobody
reads
blackboards
any
more...



REGENTANTINE

TODAY'S SPECIAL:

NO IT'S
NOT

IF YOU DON'T
LIKE GAY MARRIAGE
BLAME STRAIGHT
PEOPLE.
THEY'RE THE ONES
WHO KEEP HAVING
GAY BABIES

Coffee keeps me
Busy until its
Acceptable to Drink
wine"
-Anonymous

.... Come in for
 Both! 

Giant steps

The future of Stoke Abbott's Little Giant wood was discussed in the most pleasant conditions as local councillors and Dorset Wildlife Trust officer Emily Newton met at the wood on one of the sunniest days this summer has produced.

Matthew Bowditch reports:

Councillor Cassian Grey and I met Emily at the wood and we walked around it to explain the set up and to understand the options for the community. These options were not as simple as we had expected,

Woodland management in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty requires a plan which can then be used to obtain grant money to pay for professional management. Dorset Wildlife Trust will assist us to obtain these sources of funding.

More importantly, the Trust will create and run community engagement days at the wood for all residents of the parishes who are interested.



We await a report from Emily with her advice as to how to apply for funding and more on those engagement days. Some ideas include guided walks around Little Giant wood focussing on say bats and their behaviour around the wood.

Formats could include afternoon or evening organised walks or even include weekend events for youngsters combining overnight moth traps with barbecued breakfasts and insect identification.



This wood is leased from the Trust by the council on a peppercorn rent so the community is responsible for upkeep. Volunteers and enthusiasts are needed to take full benefit from this growing natural treasure, a trove for all of us who love the countryside

Your Community Land Trust: Officers

Chairman	David Hitchcock	01297 678257 threecountiesnurseries@live.co.uk
Secretary	Emma Turner	01297 678786 emt74@live.co.uk
Treasurer	Ali Edwards	01297 678382 aliedwards@onetel.net
Directors	Fred Bailey	01308 868015 fhpjb@aol.com
	Anne Marie Chapman	coveyehawkins@yahoo.co.uk
	Rob England	01297 678548 rob@thequester.co.uk
	Charles Somers	01297 678178 somers984@btinternet.com

Your Community Land Trust website: <http://marshwoodclt.org.uk>
Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marshwood-CLT/234577716655748>

Your District Councillors

Marshwood Vale	Mike Robinson	01308 868979 clrm.robinson@westdorset-dc.gov.uk
Broadwindsor	Jacqui Sewell	01308 867145 jacquisewell@me.com

Your County Councillors

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Beaminster	Rebecca Knox	01308 863365 r.knox@dorsetcc.gov.uk

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