

Spring
2015

Beneath the Vale

Published on behalf of Upper Marshwood Vale
Parish Council

It may be outside the strict boundaries of Upper Marshwood, but Emma Turner's journey to work is across four fields to the Sadbarow estate.

And when she arrives she has a job that many would give their eye-teeth to do. Emma is a Brewster, working at a microbrewery, Gyle 59 that purveys a wide variety of flavoursome tipples. Importantly, she forages for ingredients to tickle the palettes of beer drinkers.

Emma is an active mum bringing up 2 children in Marshalsea and married to Joel who plumbed for a living. After an accident, Joel gave up that occupation to teach plumbing and Emma joined Mighty Hop in Lyme to learn the fine art of brewing as well as all other aspects of the brewers trade.

Mighty Hop concentrated its efforts on craft beers made to a traditional format and taste, but was could not find suitable premises and the business was folded. The grape vine spread the word and Jon Hosking who owns

Gyle 59 was desperate for someone to help him.



Emma Turner cleans up before the next brew

He was happy take on a likely lass or lad, but Emma came trained to brewing and was keen to remain in the business. More to the point she had the taste skills to develop new ideas, which suited Jon's style.

He also had the luck to be granted the tenancy of the brewery designed and equipped by Sadbarow's owner, George Eyre for a different client who fell out of the running. They are lucky too with the set up: pure spring water, log burner to warm the water, the run of the estate for elderberries and nettles for particular beers, and an enthusiastic landlord.

With two people, Jon set his standard high - "to produce a beer brewed for flavour - we want you to notice what you are drinking."

Recently joined by Jon's partner and co-director, Amanda Edwards, operational roles take on some importance. Jon is head brewer, Amanda is in charge of sales, marketing and events and Emma is a Brewster with responsibility for foraging for delightful additions to the flavour spectrum, although in truth everybody mucks in.

Jon and Emma found that, with care, the beers cleared naturally so the isinglass was dropped. This upset some pub owners who had got used to isinglassed casks and requires more work from them to sustain a quality product.

As isinglass is derived from fish - it is sometimes called fish gut smoothy - it is not suitable for vegetarians or vegans.



Quality check: Amanda Edwards and Jon Hosking

Early on Jon used a fish product to clear his beers; isinglass helps to remove unwanted yeast aiding the clarity of the pint and hence the perceived quality. Most brewers use this, as it is at least a safe way of fining the beer. But some say it takes out too much including most of the extra flavour that they had laboured so hard to introduce to the product.

To prove the point, at lunchtime with their meal, Emma, Amanda and Jon were drinking something called Red Rye Saison that demonstrated how a bitter taste could also be smooth, rich and sweet. Emma's foraging has led to a great range of tastes - Harry Potter fans just might taste a mugwort beer being planned - but the other ingredients play a part.

Many hops are so popular that brewers large and small have to bid for their annual supplies. Then there are the yeasts in great variety.

Locally, Nigel at The Bottle Inn is proud of the wide range of beers so takes their beers as does River Cottage HQ also stocks Gyle 59. Further afield, near Sherborne, the Queens Arms in Corton Denham love the product.

Originally launched in London and very popular in and around the home counties as part of a nationwide phenomenon, with cask beers and bottles gaining an enthusiastic following

At present getting hold of your pint is easy if your local has a cask in stock. A variety of ways of distributing Gyle 59 are used from couriers distributing internet sales to an occasional van load of the treasured liquids setting out on a family visit to near by thirsty pubs.

However traditional pubs are not the newest developing outlets for Emma's and John's crafts.

As well as microbreweries, the future may lie in micropubs. These are small, urban retail licensed outlets which are drinking places to meet your friends with few of the normal pubs attributes, only the beers - but what great beers!



And Gyle 59 with their 12 different - very different brews - including Emma's gold winning Happy Daze are all well worth trying.

Perhaps one might suit you.

Cuckoos

No sound in nature is awaited more eagerly in late spring than the loud, ringing, repeated song of the cuckoo. The male's song, with its promise that summer is not far off, is a national institution. The first cuckoos of the year usually arrive in the second or third week of April from their winter quarters in Africa



There appears to be a decline in cuckoos in the Marshwood Vale area and beyond and we are interested in hearing from any of our readers who have seen or heard a cuckoo, when and where and we hope to produce an article in our next issue if we have enough information. Please contact Joy McClellan on the editorial team if you wish to help.

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Ben Lewers

It is with the greatest regret that we bring news of the death last month of Ben Lewers.

Very much 'our' man of God, he and Sally lived in Marshwood village after retiring from his eminent role as provost (now dean) of Derby Cathedral which made him a Very Reverend.

But to all who knew him locally and at St Mary's he was just Ben and was much loved by all who knew him. Ben was a school governor and served on the parish council. His funeral took place on a lovely spring day at St Mary's Marshwood where ushers just managed to get everyone seated.

Parishioners, villagers and visitors were enchanted by the flower arrangements which combined Easter lilies with spring flowers.

During the service at least eight butterflies became apparent. These beautiful insects sometimes tried to leave the church but largely waited patiently for windows to be opened. For all present they drew a metaphor of understanding and depth that delighted us all.

Thorncombe snubs Neighbourhood Plan

A vociferous and determined group of men took over the parish meeting at Thorncombe village hall and completely destroyed attempts to follow an agreed agenda. The subject was introduced by Mike Robinson, Neighbourhood Plan chairman, but he was cut short by a series of very similar irrelevant question.

Chairman Dick Arnold tried to hold the meeting together but members of the Thorncombe Trust took no notice and posed their disagreement as questions.

Most of the Thorncombe Trust complained that the Plan was not specific in subjects nor approach, which completely ignored the fundamental point of such a Plan: that the research and fact finding that would form the basis of all decisions put before the community in a referendum, as opposed to predetermined and undemocratic

policies imposed on the rest by a tiny minority.

Those of us not from Thorncombe who are involved with this project have been very patient with that village, but our own efforts are being handicapped by Thorncombe dissent, so it has been decided that Hawkchurch, Netherbury and Upper Marshwood will proceed without Thorncombe.

Should a consensus arise from Thorncombe, it will be up to them to join in later, if that proves possible.

Most of us are very sorry that we have had to adopt this approach, sorry for the quiet inhabitants of Thorncombe who will lose out unless they can join in, but that is the penalty of having a ghost council in the form of the Thorncombe Trust.

Elections 2015

John Vanderwolfe, our parish clerk has an important reminder:

The elections on the 7th May will be somewhat of a unique event because it will be, I am reliably informed, the first time that parish/town, district and parliamentary elections have all been held on the same date. This will also be the last time that parish and town councils in West Dorset will not have to contribute towards the cost of having an election.

I feel that it is very important that everyone votes, for if you do not, how can you possibly make any criticism about the

people who have been elected to serve you. Our ancestors fought, and some even gave up their lives, in order that they should have the right to vote.

This is the time to make sure that you are on the electoral list, because if you are not you will not be able to vote. If for whatever reason you are unable to attend the voting station you can apply for a postal vote.

Driving with willow

Matthew Bowditch is a local vet and has a new hobby.....



Libbie and I started training our horse to heavy horse harness to pull a cart and spring wagon in September 2013. Beginners in owning a horse, I have knowledge and handling experience with horses, their ailments and diseases and a degree of confidence in their handling and restraint. However I have spent no time riding or driving horses. I am sure there are many people reading this who are experienced and capable but this story is for the beginner not the expert.

Our family has farmed in the Vale and the Stoke Abbott area for probably over a century and a half. North Bowood has been its centre since 1908.

As a young child I remember my grandfather taking my elder brother on the front of the saddle on his cob. This black cob was used to ride around the farm to check how work was progressing. On market day the cob was harnessed to the spring wagon for a trip to Bridport. There could have been livestock in the back,

probably Dorset Horn fat lambs. This spring wagon still exists and is used for family events. It was built in Bridport in 1921 by Oxenbury's. This is why I must train and drive my own horse because I have two wagons which are valuable historic items. I always wanted to get a horse to pull the wagon.

Having led a very busy life it is only recently that I have more time to take up this demanding skill. Way back in 2012 I had said to my son's fiancée Pam Sibley that I was looking for a suitable horse for this task. Previously when needed for functions we had borrowed other peoples horses.

In September 2013 Pam thought she had found what we were looking for. A large skewbald (Brown & white) heavy horse cross mare, Good temperament, 4

years old and broken to ride, Willow is her name.

Her size is traditionally measured in Hands (hh = hands high)). She is 15 2. Since a hand is 4 inches (10.5cm) she is in modern metric 1.748M high or 5 ft 2in. She has a big head, shoulders and behind. It is a job to see past her when you are sat on the exercise cart behind her.

Once home Willow soon settled into a routine. She does love her food. This is a very helpful characteristic. Libby was soon riding her around the lanes and into Beaminster. The horse does love looking in people's windows in town!

Training Willow is a process of familiarising her to what you want to do and exposing her to things that may cause her to be frightened. Confidence in the human is very helpful.

We started with lunging, which is running in a circle on a long lead. This is to train her to start and stop on voice and change speed at a distance.

The next stage was to use long reins and control her from behind. This needs a certain amount of harness that she tolerated well. This then was used to go through industrial and housing estates to see more of life. At this stage it seemed that the old harness we were using was falling apart and Willow was going to be a useful driving horse so we got new webbing harness from America.

We borrowed a home made exercise cart and trained Willow to pull it very quickly so now have a lightweight exercise cart that even has brakes!

But we still have a long way to go. The spring wagon has not yet been pulled by Willow. She is young and if we are to use her and the wagon at weddings etc., total reliability is required. This involves a lot of time and training.



**Is that a camera I see
before me?**

You will see us out on the road at Four Ashes or through Stoke Abbott, Netherbury and Beaminster doing just that.

For me this is a great challenge to revive family history in a very practical way. It certainly has not been as easy as I expected. All I can say is that I am grateful that Willow is such a gentle character.

I hope you will see us out on the roads for many years to come.

**Bettiscombe Village Hall Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 19th May at 8pm
Refreshments available**

A speed gun for the vale



A short stay in hospital suffering from pneumonia for Cllr. Ali Edwards has not held back the formation of a group of local mums, dads and concerned others, determined to check speeding motorists in Marshwood.

For a while the loss of such a highly motivated person as Ali who leads on the roads group on council *and* is on the Community Land Trust seemed to threaten the whole project but, as she returned home to recover, Ali's friends and associates stepped in to move the project forward.

With Ali under doctor's orders, District councillor Jacqui Sewell chaired the casual meeting that took place at The Bottle. Our Police Community Support Officer, Luke White spelt out the conditions for using a speed gun which amount to at least 6 people from our community gathered into a team of 4, one to point the gun, two to call out the results and one to fill in the form which will go to the police for further action.

All will have to wear day-glow jackets so will be easily seen. The gun looks like a pre-iphone mobile phone and shows up

individual cars' speed very clearly. It is not calibrated so the speed shown is only an indication and is not precise enough to be the basis of a prosecution.

The police will then write to offenders quoting the date and place but only warning them of their offence. Should an offender be caught again by the public Marshwood team, strong but unspecified actions will be taken by the police themselves.

There are a number of pistol-shaped speed guns available on the internet at prices down to about £30. There are even apps to convert your mobile phone to a speed gun. Most will check the speed of vehicles but will also check other objects so are used by sports coaches for example.

With the speed gun recommended by the police unit some 10 times as expensive why should we pay extra? Well the gun is only about half the total cost, it may not be regularly calibrated like the official units but it does possess a much-improved specification when compared with cheaper units intended for simpler uses. The correct yellow jackets are also provided as well as the Marshwood team joining in with a formal process that actually does achieve something in the form of the

letter from the police. Luke offered to lend his speed gun to the group, deeming us to be serious and probable users.

So the existence of the speed gun in an area will not directly lead to prosecutions, but will act as a warning to all offenders. It should be noted that the gun can only be used at police-approved sites where there is a clear line of sight exists.

It is hoped that such actions will help reduce the speed of most who travel through Marshwood village. No doubt there will be those that take no notice, but the very existence of this gun will reduce the number who speed in our village

The costs of the gun could well be met by our CLT and the Council sharing the £300 cost price.

The police have also stepped in to the village campaign with many of their own speed traps, especially their camera van, now seen in Marshwood most weekends as well.

With its on-board camera and speed sensor peering myopically at oncoming cars out of the open back window, this van has become a familiar sight.



In their campaign, this unit has been seen at the school or in the village up to 3 times per week. A large amount of data is now available and this shows completely that the actions of the DCC committee that has banned the transport has done so under instructions from the top of Dorset County Council to save a few pence, and in no way is supported by the facts, merely the opinion of a junior factotum, working under strict policies set by more senior officials.

Such dishonesty is a disgrace to the County and threatens the lives of our children and calls into question the authority of the Police whose evidence is so wilfully discarded.

And will those at the top of the DCC be named as culpable and reports 'factually flawed' as and when any accident to our kids takes place.

Let us all hope it will never come to that.



Homes are almost ready

David Hitchcock brings us up to date with the Homes and the Community Land Trust activities

On the morning of Tuesday 14th April the CLT Directors together with one or two guests enjoyed a visit to the new Affordable Homes being built at Bramblehay, Marshwood.

We could not have picked a better morning with sunshine and no wind to admire the outlook from the windows and marvel at the high quality finish of the interiors with the kitchens and bathrooms being much admired.

Although the development is not quite complete with the topsoil to go into the gardens, garden fences to be erected and the road and parking area to be tarmaced, we left feeling that the village and its CLT should be very proud of what has happened at Thane Farm.

Everyone agreed that it would be a great place to live and that the new occupiers should consider themselves very fortunate to be getting one of these properties.

Unfortunately there is still one more hurdle to get over.

Western Power are still dealing with the legal agreements involved to bring the power into the site. At the moment we still do not have a date for the power to arrive and until the electricity is connected, the houses cannot



**Ann and David Hitchcock
admire the view**

be occupied which means the new tenants cannot be given a date when they can move in.

Five of the houses are to be rented and two on a shared ownership basis.

For some time there has been debate in the village about the shop and post office. Without going into detail I am pleased to say that Sebastian Walther has said that he will make sure both the shop and post office remain open should John be unwell or wish to give up.



**CLT members briefed
on the new homes**



A new kitchen

Over the next few months the Directors of the CLT will be giving thought as to what should be the next project that will improve the community.

At the public meeting held at Marshwood Church the idea of building the Affordable Houses was discussed.

The project has not been without its problems firstly selecting the site, then with WDDC planners, then a somewhat delayed start which should have been March 2014 but was not until mid July.

This was followed by 28 working days lost to bad weather during the winter months and now Western Power and the electricity supply. But having said all that, the houses are built and we should all feel proud that we are providing seven families with homes.

If any reader has an idea or is prepared to make a piece of ground available for more houses or a playing field and orchard please let us know.

David Hitchcock.
Chairman
Marshwood Community
Land Trust

A darn good Yarn

A warm welcome for Yarn, a west Dorset wide magazine full of interesting articles and useful snippets. Produced by a small team under Sara Hudston of Watershed PR who edits Yarn and written by Jonathan Hudston, this is a serious competitor for the Marshwood Vale Magazine. Distributed to most of West Dorset and the main towns, it is a lively look at our wider area and does not compete with BTV.

All the best to the team.

In the meantime the Bridport News seems to have adopted our Optima typeface....

How goes the Parish Plan?

As part of the preparations for our Neighbourhood Plan, your editor was asked to review progress after the Parish Plan to date. We list the action points set out but to improve the effect of this report we have also incorporated independent work such as superfast broadband and the impact of our lengthsman's efforts which did not feature in the Parish Plan. This list makes interesting reading.



Affordable homes Action: CLT
A working party was set up and has become our Community Land Trust under David Hitchcock. Working with Hastoe, HCA, West Dorset District Council and builders ... these homes are now being allocated to grateful residents.



Superfast Broadband
Action: Community effort
Fronted by Charles Sommers who spotted an initial funding shortfall, predicted the impact on our community and found DEFRA funds, he has worked tirelessly to ensure integration into a coherent plan, now being developed by BT for execution in 2015. Huge impact expected.

Marshwood speed limit

Action: Police
In the plan this was highlighted as the most dangerous section of the road through Marshwood. Now reduced to 30mph and the subject of sustained efforts by the police to prosecute offenders, this objective has been achieved but the open section of the road still encourages speeding at well-known danger spots.



Lengthsman

Action: Steve Lee/Parish council
Under the control of Cllr. Bob Wyatt, this has been most successful in preventing flooding and keeping the Vale open. Last year's bad weather caused an overspend and coincided with a budget cutback by County officials. Work has now been reduced but of all the lengthsman schemes, Upper Marshwood Vales's is most effective and has been retained by your parish councillors.

Oaks in the Vale

Action: Oaks committee
A swift campaign by the committee gained a grant of £2,500 to encourage more planting on 2 sites. Limited objective achieved.

Access to lanes

Action: Dorset County Council
Considerable efforts to local roads by the county council's Dorset Highways and spot improvements have made substantial progress. However some problems seem to be ongoing or at best temporary.

✓ Energy

Action: Electric power authorities
/local landowners

Initial enthusiasm has led to local action. Otherwise, due to power switching at Hawkchurch, this is a popular injection point and most of Dorset and Devon's photovoltaic generation takes place here.

✓✓ Young people

Action: Dorset and Devon CC

Effective standards of teaching plus cross-border co-operation and the prospects of better broadband have helped, but this is an area needing much more work.

✓ Police

Action: Police

Neighbourhood watch in place; police activity reports printed in Bridport News.

✓ Adverse weather plan

Action: Parish Council

In place but not yet required.

BUT -

✗ First Responders

Ill health stopped volunteer team leader. Overlap from Broadwindsor and Thorncombe units has helped.

✗✗ A35 signs

No action, but only an occasional problem when A35 is blocked by police delays in clearing that road.

✗✗ Boundary Markers

No interest, no action.

✗ Bus routes

Little use of buses and volunteer services, nationwide cuts preclude expansion.

✓ Beneath the Vale

This arose directly from the Parish Plan and is under the control of a 6-person team. Strong and regular criticism from some areas on certain subjects means that this cannot yet be seen as a success, but we continue to try to reflect the whole community.

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A B C - learning to read your locality

At a recent county-wide Neighbourhood Plan briefing for councillors and parish clerks, a fascinating project called Making an ABC was outlined. Designed to stimulate interest in your locality, this is a way of getting involved with your community at a unique level.

Local distinctiveness is about what small places mean to us, their detail, patina, and identity. It involves everywhere and everyday places that are as vulnerable as the beautiful and the rare, perhaps more so because we normally have no time to care. We can understand a place in close-up, the details spark the telling of tales; like lightning conductors both rousing curiosity and passing on knowledge.

An ABC could be pictorial or simply words. Nowadays almost everyone has a camera or cameraphone; but in the past we collected photos of people, homes and the environment of that time.

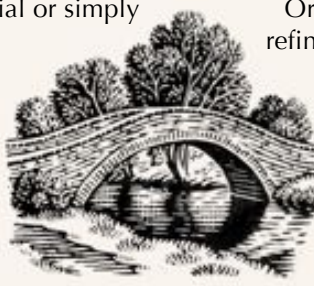
These are the basis of a compilation comparing our past and present in a single document. Lettering is a great local storyteller. Look at local old buildings for samples or visit an ancient graveyard, mix and match the styles and produce your own distinctive font. If you have any creative ability unleash it; if not find someone



who can help you.

Local materials such as clay or flint could be used as a background to your photos or drawings.

You may wish to turn this into a narrative or you could allow this to draw attention to the range of details you are illustrating or the area on which you feel strongly. You could start small and put up a sheet of paper on your wall.



Or you could go on to refine your work to the point where you need to print off a number of copies for distribution to family, friends, neighbours, others in the village.

It is always useful to talk to the press and local radio to spread the word as widely as possible. Similarly why not contact your local history society, civic group, ramblers or gardening club; not only can they help you with collecting the materiel but may also be a useful source of sales.

Who will pay for this effort as printing in small quantities is not cheap even if done digitally. So work out who will buy the project when completed. Fill the gap with subscriptions, prepayments, sponsorship, grants, or take a risk and pay for the printing out of your own pocket.

An ABC is a celebration of your place. It is designed to draw attention to those things that are important to all of us, so it has to be shown:

- ..in school as part of a project,
- ..as a focus of guided walks,
- ..on a village website,
- ..in an exhibition or local show
- ..for sale at a Tourist Information Centre,
- ..as a slide show at a village event,
- ..as an entry for a photo competition,
- ..placed on the village website,
- ..copied to record office and library,
- .. used as a campaign tool,
- ...turn it into a calendar,
- ..display it in the local shop or garage.
- ..pin it up on the parish notice board, or in local pub, and the village halls.



Don't forget to send out a copy to your local newspaper as a press release.

Common Ground plays a role in linking nature and culture, working to inspire, inform and involve people in learning more about their own locality. They champion popular involvement and inspire celebration as a starting point for local action to become part of your community. They are now based at Toller Fratrum and their work is to be found at the University of Exeter

So send them a copy for their archives.

www.commonground.org.uk



Superfast Broadband

Dorset County Council's engineering boss Pete Bartlett reports that:

- Another hurdle has been achieved when the changes to integrate the Marshwood area into the overall Broadband UK contract for Dorset were finally signed with British Telecom at the end of March.
- This means that we will get superfast broadband to the same standards as the rest of Dorset.
- At the same time BDUK is now committed to paying DCC.
-
- Which in turn lets BT start their detailed local network surveys (i.e. checking cabling routes, ducting, power availability etc.) around mid-year.
- With the data in place a detailed plan will become apparent.
- network upgrade works should start towards the end of this year.

Gritting lorries take a rest

With over 55 runs under their tyres Dorset County Council gritters are being taken offline and tucked up for the warmer months.

Dorset experienced just a small fall of snow on 3 February, which disrupted untreated roads along the coast from Weymouth through the Purbecks and east Dorset, but gritters were still sent out across the county 57 times between 1 November 2014 and 31 March 2015.

While the gritters have a well-earned break, work will start on building a new salt dome at the Dorset Highways Charminster depot. This will be finished in time for the 2015/16 winter season, offering increased storage and improve resilience in extreme winter conditions.

Weather monitoring will continue throughout April in case of any late temperature changes.



Spatchcock chicken with wild garlic and mustard sauce



2kg chicken
30g softened butter
Handful wild garlic leaves,
washed and chopped
100mls white wine
3 tbs olive oil
Salt and pepper
3 bay leaves

Mustard sauce:
2 egg yolks
1 tbs wholegrain mustard
300mls oil
1tbs wine vinegar
2-3tbs greek yogurt
Salt and pepper

Cut down either side of the chicken's backbone. Open out the chicken and flatten by pressing down with the heel of the hand. Mix together the soft butter and wild garlic. Gently loosen the skin away from the breast meat and using your hands push the garlic butter underneath the skin and spread over the breast meat. Mix together the wine and oil and season. Place chicken in a dish, scatter over the bay leaves and pour over the wine and oil mix. Cover, chill and marinate overnight.

Preheat oven to gas 6. Transfer the chicken and marinade to a roasting tin and roast for approx. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours until the chicken is cooked and the juices run clear. Meanwhile make the mustard sauce. Place the egg yolk in a bowl with the mustard and whisk together. Gradually and slowly whisk in half the oil. When the mayonnaise starts to become very thick add the vinegar. Gradually whisk in the remaining oil.

Gently combine the mayonnaise with the yogurt and season.
Serve the chicken with its pan juices and the mustard sauce.
Serves 4.

Silly Page

Jack and Bob decided to go skiing so they loaded up Jack's car and headed to Scotland. After driving for a few hours, the weather worsened and became a blizzard.

Seeing lights they pulled into a farm which turned out to be a very lavish home for an attractive lady who answered the door.

Jack asked if they could stay the night. The lady explained "I realise that its terrible weather out there and I do have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed. I'm afraid that neighbours would talk if I let you stay in the house.

Don't worry," said Jack, "We can sleep in the barn and when the weather improves we'll be gone at first light."

The good lady agreed and the two men made their way into the barn and settled down for the night. Next morning the weather had cleared so they set out northwards to enjoy their weekend of great skiing.

About 9 months later, Jack had an unexpected letter from a solicitor. He finally figured it out, the letter was from the solicitor for the attractive widow he had met on the ski weekend.

He contacted Bob. "Do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm we stayed at on the way to Scotland?"

"Er,um, yes," said Bob.

"Did you... Uh, happen to get up in the middle of the night and go up to the house and....pay her a visit?"

More than a little embarrassed at being found out, Bob admitted he had.

"And did you happen to give her my name instead of giving your own."

Now Bob's face had turned beet red. He said "Yeah, look, sorryI am afraid I did.

Why do you ask?"

"She just died and left me everything."

Council Meeting report: January

The main agenda for the meeting of 15th January was a briefing by Wessex Water and Dorset Council officials to let councillors know progress on the renewal of the water mains around Shave Cross, work that has already started. DCC was represented by Marc Cutler and Wessex Water by Allan Marker and Paul Turner. The road may be blocked from 26th of January due to the complex work involved and the narrowness of our lanes.

A complex rig capable of drilling horizontally and steering the cutting bit is used and takes up the whole road so on the two occasions this will be in operation the road will be impassable. It is used when conditions require special efforts, but a more normal way of working is to fit the new pipe into the old worn-out PVC pipe laid 35 years ago. A section between short trenches is then expanded by water pressure, splitting the old pipe and allowing egress of the new. Simple if you know how!

As a helpful concession, wherever possible the local traffic would be allowed through in spite of the official ban, especially local and farm traffic. Wessex workmen arrive on site at about 0730 and leave by 1700; work will take up to 10 weeks although it is usual to finish and clear up before this.

Wessex and DCC need our co-operation so were delighted to be informed that the recommended route up Mutton Street hill to the church was not as useful as the 'minor' road through Bettiscombe, Horse Mill Cross and to Birdsmorgate. New letters would be issued to help the non-locals.

District Councillor Mike Robinson sought feedback on the new Bridport parking

meters, widely disliked for their complications and the delays they cause. A council letter will be issued condemning the untested project.

A budget to start in April 2015 was proposed by John Vanderwolfe, our parish clerk, before two planning applications were promptly dealt with. John then set out new arrangements for accounting and transparency for councils with a turnover of under £25,000, which includes upper Marshwood Vale. In effect this moves much of the paper work to the internet where it can be examined by the general public.

It appears that a single minded individual could enforce a Parish Poll costing £5-8000 by just six voters calling an extraordinary general meeting and getting only 10 votes. At present this is a liability on our district council, in future the cost of such a poll will be the responsibility of the parish council.

A new and improved poll is now available, possibly combined with other elections and using proxy or postal voting if the council agrees. To ensure that local matters were being decided not items of wider or national interest, a monitoring officer could reject such a vote. With our own recent history, this was thoroughly approved.

To accommodate our hard-working clerk, the date of the next council meeting will be 12th March.

Parish Council Meeting, 12th March

With no Parish Council meeting in February, this meeting was eagerly awaited and could have been a long session. County and District Councillors traditionally have the first say with County's Daryl Turner taking the lead to give us the news, to be followed by Clrs. Jacquie Sewell and Mike Robinson.

Mike brought the news of the Neighbourhood Plan changes to fall in line with the Devon model where each area (parish) has their own plan, gets the full funding and then co-operates with other localities. This gives effective funding and local control and is dealt with elsewhere in this issue.

In the absence of Cllr Ali Edwards, the leading proponent who was ill, the present position was reported to council.

An appeal by Ann-Marie Chapman has failed to convince council officials that the road is too dangerous for young people, so she will join the rest of the mums to take her kids to school.

Also to be found elsewhere, is the efforts to deal with the dangerous road to the school the subject of contentious decisions by the middle ranking county council officials with their eyes on reducing costs come hell or high water

Other aspects of council progress including council work to ameliorate the dangerous pinch point and the sudden and intense speed checks conducted by the police who have finally woken up to the problem with continuous checks.

Such a pity that these are only conducted when school opens or closes as there are many speeders at other times.

One planning application was approved on the basis that another had received approval by a senior council. Reports by councillors included the Highways when Cllr. Warburton complained that no-one could access his pub as road works in the area precluded access. Cllr Turner emphasised that following proper reporting procedures would allow him to check up on work done.

Affordable homes, newsletter and broadband reported continued progress.

A letter purporting to be a survey to determine councillors' attitudes was read out by the clerk, but as the biased nature of background and questions palpably in favour of unitary governance became clear the document was abandoned.

This allowed councillors to get away promptly, yet few took advantage as informal discussions broke out, some reflecting the evening's discussions but mostly of a social nature.

A date of 23rd of April has been chosen for Annual Parish Meeting followed by a progress meeting for the Neighbourhood Plan; and the date of next meeting and annual Parish council meeting will be 21st of May

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Your Community Land Trust website: <http://marshwoodclt.org.uk>
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This list will be replaced by a
new council with effect from
21st of May



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