

Spring
2013

Beneath the Vale

Published on behalf of Upper Marshwood Vale

Parish Council

School Report

Marshwood School gets two thumbs up

In a just-published Ofsted report

Marshwood School gets the inspector's approval with across the board improvements and an 'outstanding' grade; meanwhile the new head teacher's focus on making attending school a pleasure has paid off for the pupils who clearly are having fun while they learn.

So that's both peer and pupil approval.

The previous 2010 inspection rated the school's overall standards as satisfactory. At that time Mrs Helen Whitehead had just been appointed as the new head teacher after a somewhat uncomfortable changeover. For her it was "time for a change".

Understanding that school can and should be enjoyable for all youngsters, results in more challenging teaching and more effective learning, she set about the significant improvements needed.

Coming from a family of teachers in Oxford via a training collage in Winchester, Helen and her

husband had a bias towards the area with relatives in Lyme.



When she was appointed three years ago, Helen replaced a temporary head teacher who herself had superseded a long serving head who had reached her retirement.

Marshwood Church of England Primary School has been added to over the years so is no architectural masterpiece but is next door to St Mary's, the parish church. The school has no large open hall so it shares the nave of the church using it for assembly, drama workshop and other workshops as it easily accommodates the 60 youngsters. This co-operative venture benefits both school, church and the community at large.

Although the school is 'Voluntary Aided' being in part supported by the Church of England and 'provides an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice', all are welcome, indeed there is room for 70 pupils.

Your Vale
Newsletter

Our school remains true to the church relationship; from when she arrived Mrs Whitehead was keen for the special relationship between the church next door and the school to become the basis of community involvement both with parents and the community at large.

Not only were mums welcomed in various support roles, but dads came along to show more of the community at work.

One father, a skilled chef, shocked some of the children but delighted and enthused most with his preparation of a rabbit burger. Other dads came to the school to talk about their work or their business.

A long way from the traditional lessons of yesteryear, but Helen sees this as part of ensuring the school is a key part of the community.

At the same time each pupil is given the attention and interest they need.

When she arrived Helen set out a philosophy well suited to a school that is small by many standards but is full of individuals coming from a very wide range of backgrounds:

No child gets lost in the crowd!

Not only is the school friendly and welcoming but each child is very much an individual, each with a personalised curriculum designed to match background, interests, potential and, no doubt, ability.

So what have the pupils, the teachers, the rest of her team and Mrs Whitehead actually achieved? The Ofsted report goes into details, soon it

will be on the Ofsted website but even the summary is fulsome:

‘Pupils’ attainment has risen dramatically, all make good progress from their starting point, some make outstanding progress’.

‘Teaching’ is always good with some that is outstanding.’

‘A strength of the teaching is the dialogue between teachers and pupils.’

‘Governors have become much better informed and improved their skills.’

‘Pupils enjoy school because learning is made exciting, attendance is high and behaviour is excellent.’

‘The staff share a commitment to improving the quality of teaching and to becoming an outstanding school.’

‘The head teacher’s expertise and exceptionally strong leadership has developed a very strong whole school team.’



Indeed the inspector points out that the results will improve further since the highest grade - Outstanding - requires 'the rapid rise in attainment and progress to be sustained.



Ofsted reports, a bit like our old school reports, are couched in terms that have precise meanings. 'Outstanding' means: 'An outstanding school is highly effective in delivering outcomes that provide exceptionally well for all its pupils needs.'

'Good' lacks only the words 'highly' and 'exceptionally'; so what Ofsted found is that Marshwood School is at least as good as we hoped - and getting better. Some things cannot be improved though.

A wide catchment area reflects the many small villages and hamlets that make up our Vale and beyond.

Children arrive by taxi, minibus or family car as, for safety reasons, no one walks to school.

So the roll of pupils is less dictated by the standards or popularity of the school than the numbers and size of families in that area. But since funding is based on the number of pupils attending, a continuing decline in the roll call does not bode well.

Our visit on a Thursday coincided with a Bridport News village report in which an Upper Marshwood Vale parish councillor advocated the increase of the speed limit through Marshwood back to 40mph. With the school in the middle of the open and extended village, this did not go down well.

So this idea was rapidly dismissed by Helen who pointed out: "Every morning and every afternoon we have cars parking in the road, children have no pavements to walk into the school, mothers pull out and turn round. So the slower that traffic passes the school the better. And the safer."



This then is a report on a whole school that can be waved at mum and dad - and is good for an increase in pocket money!

Village Project Roadshow

The Bridport Local History Centre will be bringing its Village Roadshow to Marshwood Church on Sunday 27th April from 10am to 1pm. In the church the Roadshow will feature a display of local history of Marshwood and Bettiscombe, with a talk on discoveries from their archives at 11am; there will also be guided tours of Marshwood School next door. Refreshments will be available at the church and the School PFA will be doing a lunchtime barbeque. For further information contact Pauline Bailey - 01308 868015

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Council News

County Councillor Rebecca Knox has over 2000 reports of road issues every month and is surprised there are not more.

She comments on her website on the huge backlog due to the floods and terrible rain which damages the lanes constantly.

"Highways has steered some money which would have gone to some resurfacing back into pothole maintenance and I hope you all record the ones which are really bad on the Dorset For You report a highway defect site and/or let me know

- I can lend weight to solving the problem since I am in daily contact with the local road gang."

Our roads are not going to be perfect for a while - rain and the tunnel - but at least we have a full time team addressing it."

More on the tunnel and improvements to diversion routes, the Beaminster job club and the successful campaign to keep mobile phone coverage in the Beaminster area including Stoke Abbott and Pilsdon can be found on her website

<http://rebeccaknoxwestdorset.com/>

Superfast Broadband for the Vale

Superfast broadband is coming to most of rural Dorset but most likely not to the Upper Marshwood Vale - unless we do something extra to make it happen.

Charles Somers raises the red flag

Your parish needs you!

Delays and administrative issues experienced last year have been cleared so the project is now back on track to start delivering broadband network upgrades throughout rural Dorset - the larger towns, some 240,000 premises are

getting superfast from the usual commercial operators.

For the rest of us the Dorset County Council goal will be to provide 'superfast broadband' with speeds of at least 24Mbps to 90-95% of 100,000 premises with the remaining 5-10%

remoter premises getting 'standard broadband' with speeds of at least 2Mbps.

Only when the chosen bidder has completed detailed network upgrade planning will we know which premises will not get superfast broadband but from all the information we have seen so far we feel sure that the UMV area will fall into the group that will only benefit from an upgrade to 2Mbps. This may seem an improvement for those of you presently only getting 0.5Mbps but of little use when others in Dorset will be getting superfast and knowing that you may have to wait many more years in order to get superfast speeds unless something additional is done now.

Since investment cost per premise will be higher a contractor would not normally be able to justify a commercial case for delivering superfast in a rural areas such as ours without a substantial level of investment subsidy and a minimum level of initial service take-up, typically around 20%. But DEFRA has available additional funds to assist the 5-10% areas so last year our local UMV broadband group took the initiative of applying for some of those.

Evidence from elsewhere has shown that the monthly cost of superfast will be not much more than the present 'up-to-8Mbps' service which we don't get anyhow.

To demonstrate likely demand for superfast 7000 users have already registered interest; in the UMV area

we have already achieved about 10% but our goal will be to push this to well above 20% and hopefully to as high as 40% as superfast is so important to businesses and us all.

DCC support our proposal to use their chosen contractor to deliver superfast to our area but to change the business case by:

- Offering £300-per-premise DEFRA grant funds in place of DCC's £100;
- Demonstrating a potential for a high level of initial take-up, say 40% in place of 20%;
- Possibly lowering the cost of installation, e.g. by allowing trenching across a field;
- And also, but only if absolutely necessary, by offering additional funds by seeking other sources of grant funding or through charging an initial connection charge.

To do this we need:

- More registrations at <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast>
- letters of support from businesses, home workers, students, families, and everyone who wants better broadband here. Sample or draft letters are available, so
- **contact me Charles Somers**
01297 678178
- somers984@btinternet.com
or the editor - 01297 678546
ali.cameron@talktalk.net

After all, Beneath the Vale will also get better - and faster with superfast broadband!

Marshwood's CLT is now all yours

These things take time but in a friendly and courteous Special General Meeting, members of the Community Land Trust confirmed their interim directors by voting them back onto the board. Thus in a single stroke all remnants of the troubled past, with misleading and dubious claims, were left behind.

As an observer, your editor was struck once again by the same feeling of co-operation and community spirit that the initial Affordable Homes steering group displayed when it first started.

It was a short meeting at Blackdown village hall chaired by David Hitchcock - to whom must go much of the credit for restoring the creative atmosphere. The village also owes much to those on the steering committee and the CLT activists who kept the faith in the teeth of such unexpected opposition and misleading claims.

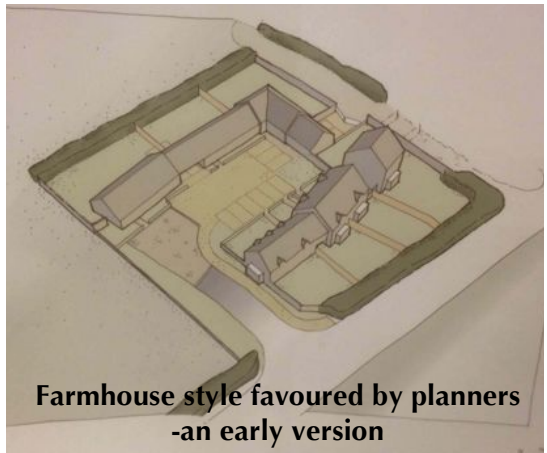
Those who joined the CLT have now chosen a representative group of local residents to steer the Affordable Homes project towards the next stage of presenting detailed plans agreeable to planners and other officials to the whole community at a full public meeting for approval or rejection.

David reported some of these details - such as the traffic concerns of the mighty highways department who wanted pavements, road bumps, signs, markings, roundabouts and the usual detritus of official thinking.

However at a site visit, the strong local representation by the CLT persuaded them that such traffic 'calming' measures were inappropriate for our rural situation.

Police input regarding the speed limit was also OK'd as they felt a reduction to 20mph would not help to reduce the speeding, but regular speed checks of the existing 30 mph limit would.

Whilst most of their efforts remain focused on the affordable homes project, little more needs to be done at the community level - at least for the time being.



It is now in the hands of planners and our housing association, Hastoe Housing who are drawing up plans for a farmhouse style homes around a courtyard - which must be large enough for a fire engine to turn round.

Considerable effort had been put into circulating a membership application form to all in the catchment area that extends to the north of Marshwood parish. Should anyone else be interested in helping create this or any other local project, membership - and a formal share certificate - is £1 a year and £1 when you join.

So far 32 members have joined which is regarded as very good for a CLT in a community of our size.



Contact secretary Emma Turner for a form or copy one from the website <http://marshwoodclt.org.uk/clt-membership/>

Since the funding agreed is time limited, one of the tactics used by those who now oppose the idea of

affordable homes or reject the choice of site has been to delay the project. In order to catch up for time lost in dealing with the inaccurate reporting and rumours that for a while beset the team, pressure is being applied to Hastoe and the councils involved to deliver what has been promised.

A Public Meeting to show plans can be expected in the spring; followed if agreed by residents by the formal planning application to West Dorset planners. If this too is approved, sitework at Thane Farm should start in autumn of this year.

One of the attractions of the Thane Farm site has been the idea of a play area for youngsters that the land's owner has long espoused.

This may not be attractive to officials who then worry about this attraction drawing crowds and causing chaos, but is very much in the minds of local mums. In a discussion the idea of creating a temporary play area at Thane Farm took seed. This might well be combined with the embryo community orchard idea that, at best needs agreement and funding, so is some years away. This proposal, albeit still informal, would see the Thane Farm play area replaced and improved by something permanent at the Orchard field as and when that project blossoms.

In another new trend for the members, the meeting concluded with tea and a chat on other possible ideas - such as

Registration team beats the snow

It did not look good that Saturday morning in January; the previous day the school had closed as the buses could not get through the snow filled lanes, more snow had fallen overnight but at least the Marshwood Community Land Trust were in the warm school and setting up their stall ready to help those who wanted one of the seven homes now being planned.

With the district council housing list constantly changing, the demand for affordable housing, hard facts - such as just how many families actually needed and deserved a local home - had to be ascertained.

As each family's circumstances change their need may increase or vanish if they can move in to an alternative home. New or growing families, or the elderly in different circumstances could join those needing homes. Hence the need to determine exactly how many were on the list.

Members of the CLT including secretary Emma Turner and treasurer Ali Edwards along with others who had just signed up to the CLT now waited for locals to drop in and perhaps even sign up to join the housing register.

Under the affordable housing schemes much of the hard work is done by the district council - to get an affordable home many conditions have to be met.

For one of the Marshwood homes residence in the village, or a family or work link with the area has to be established, so along with other priorities they can be put onto the housing register. This is the first stage



of allocating these homes, so signing up is important. Concern for the turnout seemed justified as we chatted and waited, thoughts turned to other CLT projects and ideas to improve the area.

Top of the list seemed to be the idea of a village orchard and picnic area. One site just to the south of the village had been offered for homes but rejected on planning grounds. But most of us thought that an orchard was a very different matter. No parking on the road of course, but with a small hard standing at the gate of the field, those few arriving by car - it is really close to the centre of the village - could safely park.

But as we agreed this, our first customers arrived and the real work started. One CLT director had hoped to add four families to the list but she did not expect a real rush.

With the team, Sian Robinson from West Dorset District Council handled the minimal formalities and the CLTs new chairman David Hitchcock joined in.

Steadily visitors sat down with various members of the team - hard work with those small seats, documents produced and the signing started. Teas and coffees flowed, information and reassurances given, as sub-school infants accompanying their parents looked unknowingly towards their own futures.

As the CLT team started to pack up to hand the school back to head teacher Helen Whitehead, a mini rush even started.

The eventual consensus was that there are more who might want a home here, not just from the young family sector, important as this is.

So, if this applies to you, you can always contact one of the team listed below as the list never closes.

And the simple act of chatting and the provision of correct information not imagination is proven very worthwhile. More coffee mornings perhaps...

**A play area for
Marshwood
children?**

**Something to
think about.**



Marshwood Community Land Trust - directors elected

Ali Edwards	Treasurer	aliedwards@onetel.net
Ann-Marie Chapman	Minutes	coveyehawkins@yahoo.co.uk
Charles Somers		somers984@btinternet.com
David Hitchcock	Chairman	threecountiesnurseries@live.co.uk
Fred Bailey	Parish Council	fhpb@aol.com
Rob England		rob@thequester.co.uk
<hr/>		
Emma Turner	Secretary	emt74@live.co.uk

Conflict of Interests

Somewhat embarrassingly an accidental conflict of two important local events coincided last summer - the long established Shave Cross Marathon and the revival of the Nettle Eating at the Bottle. So the BTV team decided to put together and publish a list of annual events in the four parishes that are known to us.

We cannot print more often than quarterly hence cannot reflect occasional or ad hoc events so we decided on a year-round format. In future issues we can add those new, amended or extra events that you tell us about.

Here then is the first version of that list.

<u>Where</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>2013 date</u>
Bettiscombe/Marshwood	Lent Lunches	Friday, 8 th March
The Bottle, Marshwood	Nettle Eating	Saturday, 22 nd June*
Stoke Abbott	Street Fair	Saturday, 20 th July
Shave Cross	Marathon	Saturday, 5 th August
Shave Cross	Flower Show	Sunday, 6 th August
Shave Cross	Treasure Hunt	TBA
Shave Cross	Coffee Morning	TBA
Marshwood	Cream Tea	Sunday, 11 th August
Bettiscombe/Marshwood	Harvest Supper	Saturday, 28 th September

Many important events take place around Upper Marshwood Vale so here are some we have enjoyed:

Whitchurch	Farmhouse Breakfast	Last Sunday in January
Weymouth	Kite Festival	Saturday- Monday, 4-6 th May
Abbotsbury	Cygnets hatch	Mid May- end June
Axminster	Show - Axe Vale Festival	Sat/Sun 22 nd /23 rd June*
Beaminster	Festival	Last week June (11 days)
Bridport	Charter Fair	Saturday, 6 th July
Buckham	Clunes family fair	Sunday, 18 th August
Lyme Regis	Lifeboat week	26 th July - 2 nd August
Bridport	Carnival/Torchlight procession	Saturday, 17 th August
Bridport	Melplash Show	Thursday 22 nd August
Bridport	Hat Festival	Sat-Mon, 7-9 th September
Lyme Regis	Lantern Parade & Xmas lights	Saturday, 30 th November
Bridport	Christmas Shopping Evening	2 nd Wednesday in December

*Nigel@the Bottle tells us the Nettle Eating is traditionally on the weekend after the summer solstices - freshest nettles no doubt. As the Ax Show closes at 6.00pm and the Nettle Eating starts at 6.30 there's just time to get there!

Secretary persons and chairfolk:

please think about your organisation's diary. If your event is not on the list, we apologise and ask that you email Joy McClellan - or the editor - so we can correct the omission in the next issue. We want to give you the publicity you deserve.

Contacts:

Joy McClellan, 01308 867410

joy.mcclellan@sky.com

Editor - Ali Cameron, 01297 678546

ali.cameron@talktalk.net

Have you any news?

In the two years we have been publishing Beneath the Vale most of the events we covered fell into our lap. With the high level of interest in some subjects for many residents, we could hardly avoid covering these important events. But not everyone is interested in new homes on the far side of the vale.

From the outset the editorial group that decides on content has been made up from residents drawn from all parts of the parishes. It has sought to cover a wide range of subjects, but it has to be admitted that many of these were news-driven, and serious news at that.

This coverage will continue but perhaps with fewer heavyweight events and more of the less serious news that is as important to many.

So if you have something of importance to announce, do it through the neighbourhood magazine.

Contact any one of the editorial group and we do the rest.

No computer needed, no writing down a story necessary, just get in touch and we do the rest.

Getting your BTV

Most residents get a copy posted to them; this is compiled from an electoral roll, which is now well out of date. We know of people who have moved out of the area and who have moved in. There are those who do not approve of a magazine published by the parish council or who resent what we print.

On the otherhand there are some who ask for their copies to be sent outside the four parishes. We have some colour printing thanks to advertising but BTV is prepared in colour and you can see this spectacle in the online or emailed versions.

Indeed we had expected this to become most popular so reducing our print run. Yet paper and ink retained their attraction and few within the vale no longer get the printed version.

So if you get a copy addressed to the previous residents, or get one at the pub or in the shop, you can have your own posted direct to your home - if we know about you and where to send your copies.

We operate a simple system: the editor keeps the list of addresses - mail and e-mail and has a layout of those names and addresses which are printed onto an adhesive sheet. It does not take long to alter them.

So please keep us informed - so we can keep you informed as well.



By popular request: more Stoke Abbott charectors
Frederick Swaffield's tales retold by Dr Stephen Jones

Steve Hawkins used to work for Mr Henry Smith at Charnoll and after for Mr Bowditch. He used to look after the hackneys. Grooms are another thing of the past in Stoke. Poor old Steve was a very nice fellow - he liked a bit of fun.

He has had a hard life - he had to have his leg off and he always had a wooden one. It was wonderful how he got about with it as he used to go catching rabbits every winter. Steve and George Wakely was going down Elvoll Road one day - on wi nonsense they started boxing all in good fun. Wakely was sparring away and Steve up wi his wooden leg and catch George under his ear.

Steve used to be one of the village barbers. He also was one of the accordion players of the village. I have been to a country wedding or two when Steve has been there with his accordion.

What times we used to have at the old country weddings plenty of singing and grub and drink. What a going on used to be. The last wedding I went to

we was coming up Mill Hill between three and four in the morning.

When we got by Grammeers Mead gate got talking about racing and one bet tother half a gallon of beer that he would race down Mill Gate and back and beat him that was the first race after that. Another took up the winner for another half gallon. And old Steve if he didn't lie back in the bank and laughed till the tears runned down his face.

He said he had half a mind to challenge us himself. I dunno what he meant whether he thought a wooden leg was nearly as good as what ours was. The agreement was when all of us met we would have the gallon of beer at the New Inn, but we never all met at the same time. There was one missing and now we never shall as one is now dead. Steve keeps a donkey and a little cart which is very handy for him when he has to go any distance. His wife Emily died a year or two ago.

Harry Slade: Eve Slade and her son Harry used to live next door. Eve was a proper old-fashioned sort. Harry her son was never married he used to put in most of his time up Galpin's at Court Orchard. I think he had a bit of money in the place. One time he had been a dairyman. Then he used to grow flax and hire men to work it for him.

He was also a foreman for Farmer Bascombe at Charnoll years ago. Harry used to like a little drop. And nothing used to please him better than sit by the fire at the New Inn and tell of his doings all through his days especially at Charnoll when he was foreman.

Farmer Bascombe kept eight of the finest horses in the neighbourhood. I have heard others say the same. Furzehill was ploughed at that time and once they had all the horses and started loading wheat at the bottom and went straight up over the top which took some doing as it is very steep they used to plough it downhill and go back leary. South Charnoll and North Charnoll were ploughed too, also Marllands. I have heard say Gerrards Hill and Dishclose were also ploughed. He used to tell about the deep snows they used to have and how Farmer Bascombe was found buried in the snow up in Waddon Hill from which he never recovered. Once he had a flax rick afire - it was not much good been badly

harvested. His men were by the rick with a big jar of cider watching the rick burn. Harry shouted to them about trying to dought it and they only laughed and one of them shouted "Come down yer and warm theeself yore be fool."

Harry used to be very friendly with Joe Hann when he was at Stoke - who was a dairyman for Mr Edward Smith - and when they met at the New Inn it was fun alive to here them. They used to get sot up with one another and cuss trying to beat one another with the wonderful things they had accomplished.

Joe used to be able to tow all the pheasants for miles around to his Barten and go out with bat of his journey whip and knock down seventy or eighty of a morning.

And Harry said "I was up in higher down once with a big load of hurdles right on the brow when the waggon started turning over. Harry said "I whipped up side of the front of the waggon and whipped out the drawbar and the waggon went down alver and alver right to the bottom hurdles and all but I saved the horses and the fool carters stood there and didn't know what to do if hadn done hosses and wood been killed."

Now it is practically impossible to pull out a drawbar when the waggon it tipping as it is very tight. But if Harry said a thing you couldn't turn him.



Joseph Pennell's illustration from Treves's 'Highways and Byways in Dorset'

Hose pipe ban soon? You must be joking!!

Nurseryman David Hitchcock
rains on our parade

My interest in weather goes right back to my school days where the Geography master had kept temperature, rainfall and other weather records for many years. It was not surprising therefore that weather formed part of the syllabus for our GCE exams.

In the Geography exam we were give a hypothetical weather situation on a weather chart and we had to forecast for the next 24 – 48 hours. This included wind speed and direction, rainfall and hours of sunshine expected. One never found out if you were correct but I passed the exam, which was all that mattered at the time.

I have taken the rain fall here at the nursery for many years but only for the last 20 odd have I actually taken it daily and written the readings down in the diary.



We have heard of the driest month or the wettest and for many, this year looked as though it was going to be the wettest and for some it was but the national average taken right across the country proved that 2000 was the wetter.

However not so here in Marshwood where we had the wettest single month I have ever recorded and the wettest year.

Below I have set out the last few years and the 20year average. It may be of interest to some readers.

<u>Month</u>	<u>2006</u>	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	20-year average
Jan	32	118	162	182	113	113	48	124 mm
Feb	54	205	45	83	107	91	13	86.7
Mar	129	55	110	54	82	22	9	71.8
Apr	27	10	67	69	47	11	203	66.4
May	116	151	112	40	20	50	50	70.2
June	40	138	30	32	54	111	218	60.3
July	37	101	132	206	57	55	239	62.4
Aug	55	98	150	107	91	83	182	79.2
Sept	77	55	110	31	111	66	73	80.1
Oct	86	46	128	132	103	81	175	114
Nov	117	141	89	235	115	84	250	134
Dec	140	129	79	148	16	97	217	114
TOTAL	910	1247	1214	1319	916	864	1677	1063

When you look at 2012 it is no wonder everywhere is running in water. But notice how dry the end of 2011 and beginning of 2012 was

compared to the average for those 7 months and then from April on the heavens opened.

For interest the total rainfall here in 2000 was 1451mm.

Letter to the editor

From Simon Taylor:

Design of affordable housing - We moved into the Vale some eight years ago and since then – amongst other things – have replaced an old bungalow with a modern house.

Although some of the things we wanted to incorporate in our new build were a “minority sport” at the time, we did a lot of research, and took a few risks, and so installed a ground source heat pump, two wood burners, glazing to maximise passive solar gain, insulated the house beyond the requirements of Buildings Regs, plumbed in a rainwater capture system, and latterly have invested in a 10 kWp photovoltaic array and will shortly be planting a small wood.

The result is a comfortable, modern house that uses relatively little water, no gas or oil, and a minimal amount of electricity – not only is the house close to “carbon neutral” but it is also very cheap to run!

As newcomers to the Vale we did not want to become involved in the debate over the proposed affordable housing in Whitchurch, and the fierce politics associated with it.

Having looked carefully at the plans, though, we were struck by how ugly and intrusive the design was – albeit ameliorated slightly in the second set of designs – and also thought that an opportunity to mitigate the buildings’ impact - both visual and environmental - had been wasted.

So, when the CLT comes to look at the detailed design of Marshwood’s affordable housing, why not consider some of the following: - building “upside down” houses, with the bedrooms partially buried in a (thermally efficient) basement; using a ground source heat pump for the base heating load, backed up by a woodburner; over-insulating the houses and using glass to generate a greenhouse effect; designing the roofs with a low ridge line and incorporating solar water heaters and a PV array, and perhaps a low-angle sedum roof; and a rainwater capture system.

Not only will these ideas soften the houses’ impact but they will also make them cheaper to run and more comfortable to live in.

Good luck!

Simon Taylor – Copse Gate Farm

This is the sort of letter your editor likes to get - thought provoking, relevant and constructive - respect! More please!

Whither Marshwood?

It was over 4 years ago that the Parish Plan for Upper Marshwood Vale was launched. It has led to a number of useful changes and a couple of heavyweight campaigns that followed from the Plan.

One of these - the new Community Land Trust - underwent a trial by fire as unsubstantiated allegations were rumoured and false reports appeared in print for reasons only a very few comprehend. Our CLT bounced back, but others especially those organisations directly contacted and mislead have reacted with understandable caution.

In fact the District Council, Housing Association and the Homes and Community Authority are quietly asking that ever ongoing question: what is the future for Upper Marshwood Vale, and what do residents really want for their village(s)?

So much confusion has been stirred up that this is now a fair question to pose once more. The Parish Plan system is repeated every 10 years, but at best this only provides a snapshot of residents' opinions.

Starting with where we are now: of the Plan's successful ideas, **affordable homes**, and (superfast) **broadband** are very active and regularly reported, **oak trees** have been planted by our local team, **floods** at least in part alleviated thanks to the parish council's lengthsman and this is issue 8 of the **newsletter**. **Lanes** have a much improved, smoother surface and Marshwood has a

lower speed limit, both county council actions. Buses and **public transport** are no better, though; the **A35** is still dumped into our vale at police convenience, the long-term future of the **village shop** is unclear and the **future for youngsters** has not improved, along with other good ideas for the vale all still undetermined.

New ideas have arisen - a village orchard/play area, school off-street parking and mains sewage have been mentioned - but is this enough to improve life in our villages and community? Ideas from elsewhere suggest off-street car parking in the villages, footpath or pavement through the villages, a village hall for Marshwood, tourist attractions, pubs and B&Bs promoted, and a small business park.

What we do not need is the influx of the wrong kind of businesses - warehouses, industrial and tacky-tacky manufacturing, office estates, out of town communities needing a place to park. Your editor humbly suggests we *do* need support for our own ideas to come to fruition. And what about some of the really good local ideas to create brand new businesses for the future of those children at the school. Some exist others, are pipe-dreams still, but all need development.

Most of all what do **you** think - what kind of village development is needed, what will best support a future Upper Marshwood Vale and those who will live there.

Let us know!

Letters to the editor - email, phone or message in forked stick....

Horsing about

If you like your meat with a little extra kick, surprisingly high levels of Shergar, or having featured in the film or play War(m) Horse, whoa there!

As we neigh sayers are on the hoof and at the mane event, we bridle at your offer and rein in our enthusiasm since we are saddled with a bolted stable door and a cart before the hoarse.

Tescos won by a nose.

We've been to Tescos and had a burger but there's still a bit between my teeth.

As horse d'oeuvres we ordered two Tesco burgers - "Please hold the dressage."

Tesco, everything you want from a store and a little bit mare!

Newsflash!---Traces of zebras found in Tesco barcodes.

Selected some burgers on the Tesco website... then I clicked on "add to cart".'

You think Tesco horse burgers are bad? You should try their quarter pandas.

Working on the Tesco meat counter feels like I'm flogging a dead horse.

Those Aldi horse burgers were nice, but I prefer My Lidl Pony.

Lets call it a draw - neither of us can whinny

We bought fish fingers tested for seahorse, and spaghetti bologneighs.

Can't see any problem - a horse is really a fit cow so we're in a stable condition.

Only just discovered the horsemeat in lasagnes as the cheese on top was mascarpone.

Some packs of lasagne have been in the fridge for quite a while - and they're off!

Bloke goes into a burger bar.... "Burger please." "Sure mate, Anything on it?" "Oh yes, a fiver each way!"



Horse walks into a bar. Barman says 'sorry mate, we don't serve food in here!'

To beef or not to beef, that is equestrian!

A cow walks into a bar.
Barman says "why the long face?"
Cow says "Illegal ingredients,
coming over here stealing
our jobs!"

Dorset County Council Mobile Library - new times

Route: Bridport 4

Pilsdon Manor House	Friday,	March	1	11:30 - 12:00
day and time change to	Tuesday,	March	12	11:10 - 11:30
	Tuesday,	March	26	11:10 - 11:30
then fortnightly from	Tuesday,	April	9	11:10 - 11:30
	Tuesday,	April	23	11:10 - 11:30

Route: Bridport 4

Stoke Abbott, Horse Trough	Friday,	March	1	14:15 - 14:35
day and time change to	Tuesday,	March	12	11:50 - 12:05
	Tuesday,	March	26	11:50 - 12:05
then fortnightly from	Tuesday,	April	9	11:50 - 12:05
	Tuesday,	April	23	11:50 - 12:05

Route: Bridport 6

Marshwood Gladhayes Farm	Wednesday,	March	6	15:35 - 16:00
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Route: Bridport 5

day and time change to	Tuesday,	March	19	14:25 - 14:45
then fortnightly from	Tuesday,	April	2	14:25 - 14:45
	Tuesday,	April	16	14:25 - 14:45
	Tuesday,	April	30	14:25 - 14:45

Your District Councillors

Marshwood Vale	Mike Robinson	01308 868979
	cllrm.robinson@westdorset-dc.gov.uk	
Broadwindsor	Jacqui Sewell	01308 867145
	cllrj.sewell@westdorset-dc.gov.uk	

Your County Councillors

Marshwood Vale	Geoffrey Brierley	01297 560660
	g.j.brierley@dorsetcc.gov.uk	
Beaminster	Rebecca Knox	01308 863365
	r.knox@dorsetcc.gov.uk	

Beneath the Vale: Editorial Board

Pauline Bailey	fhpjb@hotmail.co.uk	01308 868015
Matthew Bowditch	m1bowditch.vets@virgin.net	01308 862758
David Corneloues	davidcorneloues@tiscali.co.uk	01308 868094
Joy McClellan	joy.mcclellan@sky.com	01308 867410
Newsletter Editor	Ali Cameron	01297 678546
	ali.cameron@talktalk.net	

Your Parish Council website: www.uppermarshwoodcouncil.org

Chairman

Matthew Bowditch 01308 862758
Stokewater Farm, Stoke Abbott
DT8 3JL
m1bowditch.vets@virgin.net
Stoke Abbott

Clerk

John Vanderwolfe 01297 34444
Newenham, 5 Halletts Way, Axminster,
EX13 5NB
johnvw@tiscali.co.uk

Councillors

Fred Bailey, 01308 868015
Meadowrise, Bettiscombe DT6 6HP
fhpb@aol.com
Marshwood

Roland Bugler 01308 867796
Vale End, Lower House Farm,
Bettiscombe DT6 5NT
hebugler@hotmail.co.uk
Bettiscombe

Ali Cameron 01297 678546
Blue Haze, Marshwood, DT6 5QB
ali.cameron@talktalk.net
Marshwood

Jane Gillingham 01308 867197
Mabeys Cottage, Pilsdon DT6 5NY
janie.gillingham@btinternet.com
Pilsdon

Christopher Rabbetts 01308 867474
Gerrards Farm, Pilsdon DT6 5PA
chrisrabbetts@btinternet.com
Pilsdon

Councillors

Michael Rowe 01308 868726
Waterhouse Farm, Bettiscombe
DT6 5NT
groweandsons@hotmail.co.uk
Bettiscombe

Trevor Richards 01308 868848
Deer Park Farm, Marshwood Vale,
DT6 5PZ,
info@rochestershire.co.uk
Marshwood

Roy Warburton 01308 868358
Shave Cross Inn, Shave Cross, DT6 6HW
roy.warburton@virgin.net
Marshwood

Robert Wyatt 01308 868249
Blackney Farm, Blackney, DT6 5PB
bob.j.wyatt@googlemail.com
Stoke Abbott

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

Facebook page:

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

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