

The North Marston & Granborough magazine



December 2021



Village
Gallery

Cottage Garden

“Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.” —
Winston Churchill

WELCOME

Thank you for your support of the local community magazine

Welcome to the December edition of the magazine. Lots of exciting events coming up and don't forget to renew your Sportsfield 100 Club number if you have one, details inside.

Look out for details of the NM Neighbourhood Plan and the re-opening of the Granborough Village Hall!

The magazine is looking at ways to modernise and communicate information so watch this space!

Please continue to support local businesses and STAY SAFE!

Thank you for all your support

Editor and team

SAMARITANS

Anyone can contact Samaritans. Talk to us any time you like, in your own way and off the record. We offer emotional support any time for free from any phone on 116 123 - This number won't show up on your phone bill. Or email jo@samaritans.org, or you can go to www.samaritans.org to find details of your nearest branch, where you can talk to one of our trained volunteers face to face.

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Support Networks

**Please contact us if you require any help with shopping/
prescriptions etc**

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Village Combine
Gallery *By Robin Brown*

Join the North Marston & Granborough Community Group Facebook Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/151408138823746>

It's a community group created to share and discuss our villages. It is not a selling site.

EVENTS

A poster for the 'Tree of Light 2021' event. The background is dark with many out-of-focus yellow and orange bokeh lights. At the top, there is a white silhouette of a Christmas tree with several small white stars around it. Below the tree, there are three white stick figures holding hands in a circle. In the center, there is a large, lit red candle with a bright yellow flame. At the bottom, there is a green banner with white text and a logo.

TREE OF LIGHT 2021

A virtual service to remember and honour those we have lost.

Watch at fnhospice.org.uk/tree-of-light from 5pm on Saturday 18th December

 Florence Nightingale
HOSPICE CHARITY
Registered Charity No. 1110496

A poster for an 'Advent Course'. The background is dark blue with a textured, cracked appearance. On the left, there is a stylized illustration of a lit candle in a glass holder, with a large, glowing yellow and orange flame. The text is in a yellow, serif font.

St Mary's Church North Marston & St John the Baptist Church Granborough

You are most welcome to join us for our

ADVENT COURSE

Every Tuesday Evening in Advent
7.30-9.00pm at Wesley Centre

30/11, 7, 14 & 21/12

We will be following Comfortable Words - A Call to Restoration
(Reflections on Isaiah 40-55) by Stephen Croft

For more info please contact Petra on 07557045703 or petra.elsmore@gmail.com

Granborough Village Hall Future Events

Granborough Christmas Raffle

Tickets will be available soon for this fundraiser (watch this space). Raising funds for St John the Baptist Church, Village Hall & Charter Fayre 2022. Meal for 2 at The Crown, Bottle of Bollinger, Hamper, 3 course set meal for 2 at Prezzo & many more prizes. For tickets contact Karl on 07917 002800. Draw will take place on December 18th.

Granborough Christmas tree lighting

The annual Christmas tree lighting & Carol's evening will be at Granborough Village Hall. Doors open at 5.45pm on Sunday 5th December, with warm Mince pies & mulled wine available (plus squash)! Lights will be turned on 6.15pm. Don't forget your gloves, bobble hat & torch! Donations very much appreciated.

North Marston Forthcoming Events

Stewkley Singers- Friday 10 December 2021 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, details to follow.

HM The Queen's Platinum Anniversary Afternoon Tea - Sunday 6 February 2022 3-5pm in the Wesley Centre. Please note that this event will replace the Quiz Night that was planned on Saturday 5 February 2022.

A Right Royal Scarecrow Competition - Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 June 2022 (National Celebration dates). All village households are invited to take part in this event in honour of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Details to follow early next year so get your thinking caps on.

Questions? If you have questions about any of the above, please ring Jennifer 670273 or Val 670479.

An Invitation to all Granborough Residents

You are all invited to the official re-opening of Granborough Village Hall on Saturday 11th December between 2.00 and 4.00 pm. Please join us to celebrate the completion of the village hall refurbishment which has been funded jointly by FCC Communities Foundation, ACRE, Tesco, Granborough Parish Council and most importantly from the donations and contributions at many fundraising events by Granborough Residents. There will be a very short presentation on what has been done to the hall and then the ribbon will be cut at 3.00 pm by Karl McWhirter. Seasonal refreshments will be served free of charge. This will be an important occasion for the village and an opportunity for you to see the completed works and meet some of the skilled craftsmen who worked on the restoration. It is also the Trustees opportunity to say thank you to all of you. We hope that you can make it and would love to see you there.

Whitchurch WI

Meeting beginning 7.30 pm
St John's Hall, White Horse Lane, Whitchurch
on Tuesday, 7 December 2021

Christmas celebration
with music and songs from The Kensal Duo

Visitors welcome (£5 per head)

North Marston Village Hall Hiring Calendar

Please see www.northmarston.org for calendar

Wesley Centre Monthly Lunches

Monthly lunches are now available in Wesley Centre. Everyone is welcome to join us for a wholesome 2 course lunch followed by tea or coffee that will be served from 12 noon until 2pm on the dates shown below. We don't charge but we welcome donations, which support St Mary's Church funds. No need to book in advance, just bring yourself, your friends and a smile. Hope to see you there!

Covid permitting, we hope to run these lunches on the second Wednesday of each month until further notice, so **for the rest of 2021.**

Wesley Centre Coffee Mornings

Friday morning coffee mornings have also restarted in the Wesley Centre. Come and join for a coffee or tea, a piece of cake and a chat. Again, there's no charge but we welcome voluntary contributions to support Church funds.

These coffee mornings will run every Friday 10am-12 noon until further notice.

If you have any questions about any of the items above, please ring **Jennifer on 670273** or **Val on 670479**

Christmas shoebox appeal

If anyone would like to fill a Christmas shoebox I have the forms ,It is a very worth while cause and much appreciated by those who receive them. Thank you Jennifer Heffer 670273



Hopefully on August 16th 2022 I will finally be able to do my charity climb of Kilimanjaro for Dig Deep. I have £1600 left to raise to be able to this, so I have arranged some charity events in the village of North Marston in 2022 to reach my target, that were cancelled over last eighteen months.

Dates for your diary in 2022!

11th February Quiz with chilli meal at Wesley centre 7pm £10 each.

12th March Race night at village hall 7pm, £5 each

30th April Pilates and Prosecco in Wesley Centre £15

21st May Cream teas in the paddock 3pm £10 each

Thank you to everyone for their support, Tricia McSweeney.

CONTRIBUTIONS

QUIZ

1. “Attaboy Clarence” are the last words spoken in which classic Christmas film?
2. “They sold me a dream of Christmas They sold me a silent night” is from which Christmas song?
3. “Top to toe in tail backs, I got red lights all around” is from which Christmas song?
4. According to the 12 days of Christmas, how many of the 12 presents given were definitely female?
5. An orange is used to make a Christingle – what does it represent?
6. At Christmas in 1814, the last Frost Fair was held in London – but precisely where?
7. At which city’s airport was the film Die Hard 2 set on Christmas Eve?
8. Baron Hardup is the biological father of how many children?
9. Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean is administered by which country?
10. Cliff Richard’s last 3 number ones were all at or near Christmas (1988 1990 & 1999) – name them ?

Answers on page 25

Winslow District Ramblers Group

WDRG is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022. We hope to celebrate with special outings and other events. Anyone wishing to join the group should contact our Secretary, Els Otten on 01280 820598 or go to our website www.e-voice.net-district-ramblers-group. Anyone interested in joining our group is welcome to join one of our walks for free.

Programme for December 2021

Saturday 4th December 10am Westbury

10am Circular walk to Mixbury and Finmere. Meet at Westbury Village Hall (cafe and shop) NN13 5LA GR 621366. Walking through fields and on roads. Cattle may be in one field. Some stiles and some stony ground. Can use cafe at end of walk. 5.9 miles

Saturday 11th December 10.30am Asheridge

Free NT car park by the cafe I(HP4 1LT). Walking past the cafe with the monument on the right. Follow path through the woods and on to Princes Riding. Turn right to Ashbridge College for coffee/loo stop then rejoin Princes Riding path back to car park. 4 miles

Saturday 18th December 10.30 Buckland Wharf, Aston Clinton

Park and meet at the end of Buckland Road near the canal GR898115. HP22 5TL. Walking clockwise on to Aston Hill on towpath, heathlands and along quiet lanes. The return route is through the golf course and Cobblers Pits nature reserve. Some road crossings. 5 miles

Sunday 26th December 2pm Winslow

Greyhound Lane car park. Traditional walk around old and new parts

Message from Rev Petra Elsmore

The idea of God puts many people off God. The idea of one who is above and beyond all things and yet who is involved in the daily lives of mortal humanity is just too much for many and can be a stumbling block to belief. The idea of one who is both powerful and good and yet who leaves the world to go its way as millions suffer and struggle is, for many good, thinking people, a clinching argument against the existence of God.

Perhaps the best answer to these questions is to be found in that most familiar of childhood memories, the Nativity scene.

Nativity scenes, tableaux, plays and the like have been with us since St Francis staged the first “Living Nativity” near Assisi. The society of Francis’s day emphasised the prestige and power of kings and rulers and the religion of the day showed God in that light too... there was an emphasis on the glory and splendour of God, which mirrored the glory and splendour of a medieval court. Francis knew that this didn’t help anyone feel closer to God and so he chose a cave in which to stage a recreation of the Bethlehem stable.

The heart of the Christmas message is that God is closer than you think. The Christmas story shows us God born into a human family. Frail, vulnerable and in need of human love and nurture.

In the words of Anthony de Mello: “We forget all too easily that one of the big lessons of the Incarnation is that God is found in the ordinary. You wish to see God? Look at the face of the person next to you. You want to hear God? Listen to the cry of a baby, the loud laughter at a party, the wind rustling in the trees. You want to feel God? Stretch your hand out and hold someone. Or just quiet yourself, become aware of the sensations in your body, sense God’s almighty power at work in you and feel how near God is to you. Emmanuel, God-with-us.”

With every blessing for this festive season

Rev Petra Elsmore

The Wesley Centre - The quiz answers and more...

The postcode MK18 3PJ tells us **it is in Schorne Lane** of North Marston, although this was originally called 'Old Well Lane' perhaps because of the water found underground. Using muscle power, you can still summon 'The devil' out of his boot (**at The Holy Well, our historic landmark**).

While the **original building here was an old Malting House**, the site is better known for the Methodist Churches (**neither ever had a steeple**). The outside stonework incorporates **limestone** and the **1864 commemoration** stone. This last building (**with 13 windows & 15 glass panes**) was converted to a welcoming multi-purpose building we can all use.

Over the years, a wide variety of events have included...

Private parties, Keep Fit activities, Dancing, Meetings for Groups, Film shows, **Coffee Mornings (each Friday morning)** , Community Lunches, Brownies, Baby Massage classes, Quiz evenings ,The N M History Club ...

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas

Meet up with friends and family – Get-togethers with colleagues – saying Thank-you to special people – Children's parties -host your own sing-a-long

Don't miss a chance to book yourself the perfect spot to enjoy your gathering

Some dates still available in December and now booking for 2022

Email bookings@wesleycentre.co.uk or phone Anne 07984 791364

Village Hall Coffee Morning

Thank you to all those who supported the recent coffee morning. You helped us raise £298 for hall funds.

GRANBOROUGH DARTS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

With firm favourite Stephen (Rusty) Carthorse making an early exit, this left the experience of Seasoned Pros to lift this annual trophy. Last year's winner Barry (Le Horse) Heritage just missing out on reaching the final, this left two locals to fight out for the bragging rights! Friendly Fred (Pickled) Carter had won all round robin games but got turned over by local legend Paul (Chip) Butterwith with a double three finish. A big thank you to The Crown for hosting this event & Karl's Bakery for the annual sponsorship. Same again in 2022.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB!





**ONLY
£7.95!**

What is included?

- 1 FREE adult entry
- 1 child's meal
- Access to the farm, play areas and café
- CHRISTMAS CRAFTS!

Open every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during term time. Entry from 3pm - 4:30pm.

Book on our website now or give us a call:
www.greendragonecofarm.co.uk 01296 670444

Visit Quainton Windmill

One of only 40 working windmills in the UK

Open every Sunday 10.00 to 12.30 hrs



Quainton
Windmill

Discover the 'Fruity Governor Chattering and Flapping'

On the Ground Floor

Receive a warm welcome and a brief introduction to the windmill including how it was restored. Discover the 'flapper doors'.



On the Third Floor

Enjoy the best view of Quainton, you will get a close up understanding of how the miller controlled the production of flour. Discover what the 'governor' did.

On the Fourth Floor

Understand how the grain was ground into flour between the upper millstone that moves at great speed and the bottom stone that never moves. Discover the 'chattering damsel'.



On the Fifth Floor

Marvel at the large machinery in the cap, all original from 189 years ago; it converts the movement of the sails outside into power to grind the corn. Discover the benefits of 'fruit wood'.

Visit: www.quaintonwindmill.org

Email: info@quaintonwindmill.org





Very generous donations have continued to pour in every month, for which we are extremely grateful. We are proud to be able to deliver a car boot full of food from North Marston, Whitchurch and Dunton to the Foodbank on the first Monday of every month.

Monetary donations are always welcome too, and we have received these from the villages. One of the ways money is spent is to top up food where stocks of certain items are running low.

The following dry and/or tinned foods are in **very short supply** and would be welcome this month:

tinned fruit
sponge puddings
long life milk and fruit juice
tea bags, especially small boxes
coffee
chocolate
toothbrushes/toothpaste
'Bags for Life'
Christmas fare (no short 'Use By' dates)

**Please leave your donations in the wheelbarrow at
the back of 47 High Street
on Sunday 5th December**



**Thank you!
Aly and Dave Perrett**



Village Gallery Townsend
By Paul Gillett



Village Gallery Snowy Church
By Dawn Jones



Winslow & District Community Bus Needs Volunteer Drivers

The Winslow & District Community Bus relies on volunteer drivers to run its services, excursions and hires.

We are always in need of volunteer drivers, especially at the moment! So, if you have a D1 on your licence, and have some spare time, please consider becoming a driver for your local Community Bus.

You can do as much or as little as you like, from our shorter local runs to some of our longer day trips. We visit all kinds of places, including garden centres, stately homes, shopping centres, countryside drives as well as our regular scheduled bus services, and the people who use the bus are a very friendly crowd!

We offer certificated training to MIDAS standard, and pay out-of-pocket expenses.

Please call or visit our website for more information.

We are now running the following services:

Aylesbury Market Bus - runs every Friday and Saturday morning — from Winslow, through Gt Horwood, Little Horwood, Mursley and Swanbourne, arriving in Aylesbury just after 10am and departing at 12.15pm. Bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return.

Winslow Market Service 54abc - runs every Wednesday morning

This service picks up in the surrounding villages and then into Winslow, (Swanbourne, Mursley, Great Horwood, Whaddon, Nash and The Claydons). Pick up times vary according to village. Bus passes accepted, otherwise £3.00 return.

Buckingham Bus Service - runs on the first Tuesday of the month

Picking up in Winslow and surrounding villages. 1 hour in town then 1 hour in Tesco, or 2 hours in Tesco. Door to door service. Bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return.

Westcroft Shopping – runs every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month

Picking up in surrounding villages. Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Ring to book.

Despite the government lifting restrictions, we still have the following guidelines in place to help keep yourselves and our drivers safe:

- Please call and reserve your seat in advance. All 16 seats are back on board but the double seats are still for single occupancy only unless agreed in advance with the coordinator.
- We ask that all passengers wear a face covering while travelling on the bus.
- We also ask that all passengers use the hand sanitiser provided on the bus.

Please contact the WDCB Coordinator for more details.

Passengers are not to travel on the bus if they or any member of their household are displaying any signs of the COVID-19 virus.



Why not follow [@mindful.eco](#) on facebook or
instagram for more interesting information.



With Christmas coming round the corner, it's important we know how to not just have a special, exciting Christmas but also a sustainable and eco-friendly one too!!

Why not follow a couple of these eco tips for Christmas?



Make use of old
xmas
decorations



Reuse gift bags,
wrapping paper
etc



Opt for a reusable
advent calendar



Make your own
decorations (eg
using dried fruit)



Buy eco friendly
wrapping paper
& cards
(recyclable)

Christmas Eco tips

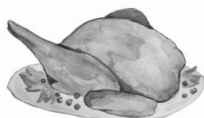
MINDFUL.ECO



Buy a sustainably
sourced tree (FSC)
or opt for tree
rental



Buy some eco
friendly gifts or
make your own



Minimise food
waste during xmas



Use reusable bags
when xmas
shopping (avoid
plastic bags)



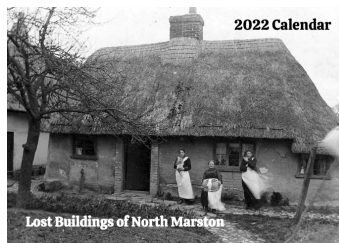
Make your
own
crackers

The Uniquely Special
North Marston "Snowscene" Christmas Cards



and the

"Lost Buildings of North Marston" calendar



*Both can be bought from The Shop
or from Janet Gowin (01296 670466)*

Perfect for close friends and family



**Village Cricket by Robin Harwood,
extracted from “Memories Shared”,
Volume 1, published by North
Marston History Club.**

“I can remember several cricket grounds. One was behind the Wheatsheaf in Anders Oak; Laurence Young, the builder in the village, started the cricket off there. He was our umpire and it was mainly thanks to him that pitches were prepared and kit taken care of. Then Albert Franklin rented the field which is the site of the current sports ground and we played there for a time but he ploughed it up in the Second World war and we moved to his field along Portway (where Keith Franklin’s house is now). Then we finally moved back to the original site down Granborough Road where it is now.

There was no League cricket until after World War 2, just friendlies. The local village games were always needle matches and none more so than those against Granborough. Everyone wanted to play in these and one evening we arrived for an away game and were just about to start when the farmer who owned the field rushed across and stopped the game because he hadn’t been picked to play.

In another game against Mursley, the opposing wicket-keeper stood with his foot near the wickets and, as the ball passed, he tapped them with his foot, the bails fell off and the batsman was given out. In the pub afterwards he laughed with the batsman and admitted what he’d done.

The umpiring was a bit suspect sometimes – it wasn’t unusual to hear from a bowler whose father was umpire, “How’s that, dad?” and the answer would come back, “Out! Well bowled, son!”

The team I played in from the late 1940s through to the early 1950s won the Buckingham and District Cricket League six times, which was quite an achievement! In my best match I scored ninety out of the one hundred and twenty runs. I was voted Best Batsman and Best Bowler one year. We played in two leagues and some of our medals were inlaid with real gold and silver. Ray Young was a good batsman – he could really cut the ball. There were two other Harwoods in the team too – Eric and Chib.

After bringing home the League Cup the celebrations went on and on. The cup was filled up time and again in The Bell all through the evening for drinkers and non-drinkers alike. One man was so drunk that, as he lay on the green, they thought he was dead! A search for another man the next day found him asleep on top of the coal in his shed.”

COMMUNITY ROUND UP & VOLUNTEERING

Granborough Village Hall Hire Charges 2021/2022

Event	Resident / Non-Resident	Rate	Notes
Events run for the benefit of the Granborough Community:		£10/hr	1
Regular fee charging classes etc		£12/hr	
Day time parties /functions up to 6.00pm	Resident	£12/hr	
	Non-Resident	£18/hr	
Evening parties / functions 6.00 pm to midnight	Resident	£15/hr	2
	Non-Resident	£20/hr	2
Wedding Reception 8.00 am wedding day to 9.00 am following day	Resident	£250	2
	Non-Resident	£350	2
Wake/post funeral	Resident	£100	2
	Non-Resident	£150	2

Note 1: Reduced to £8/hr for existing groups until 1/12/21

Note 2: Event must finish by midnight

Deposits:

Regular groups and classes:		£0
All functions:	Resident	£50
	Non-Resident up to 6.00 pm	£75
	Non-Resident after 6.00 pm	£100
Weddings:	Resident	£100
	Non-Resident	£200
Wakes etc	Resident	£50
	Non-Resident up to 6.00 pm	£75
	Non-Resident after 6.00 pm	£100

For booking or further information please contact Mrs Ann Sear on 01296 670314

North Marston Neighbourhood Plan Update

The draft North Marston Neighbourhood Plan and all associated documents will be published online and be available to download on Wednesday December 15, following its formal endorsement by the Parish Council at their next meeting.

Full details of how to access the Plan will be contained in a leaflet that the Steering Group will circulate to all households around the date of publication, and the information will also appear on village noticeboards.

In addition, statutory consultees and other interested parties will receive the details via email, and library copies will be available to view at selected village amenities.

Publication of the Plan will start the process of “pre-submission consultation”, during which everyone is free to make representations and comments about the Plan’s contents and policies. These representations can lead to revision of the Plan to reflect consultation responses, and information about how to make representations will be published with the Plan.

The consultation process will extend for a period of 8 weeks from Wednesday December 15, 2021, to Wednesday February 9, 2022.

To encourage maximum engagement with the Plan, the Steering Group intends to host two drop-in sessions during January and February when anyone attending can discuss the Plan personally with us and make representations at the same time. Dates and times will be confirmed later, but we expect to hold one Saturday morning and one weekday evening session.

The Neighbourhood Plan is important to the village because it eventually becomes part of the legal framework within which decisions about North Marston will be made by local and national authorities. The more engagement there is with the consultation process the more the Steering Group can be confident that the final Plan truly reflects the views of the community. Please make sure your voice is heard.

If you have any queries, please contact chair.nmnp@gmail.com

SPORTSFIELD 100 CLUB PRIZE DRAW

Thank you to all players of the 100 Club prize draw over the past few years. To date over £6,000 has been raised towards the upkeep of the sports field. For those that do not participate these are the details:

Each individual pays £15 a year for a number between 1 and 100.

Players can buy as many numbers as they wish but when all 100 numbers are allocated they are gone. Each month there is a prize draw. 3 numbers are drawn winning £30, £20 and £10. The December draw prizes are doubled to £60, £40 and £20.

The renewal is February 2022 for the year to January 2023.

I will soon be contacting existing number holders for confirmation that they wish to participate again. Or you could pre-empt this by contacting gordon.bowden@qhfp.co.uk or 07813351998 to confirm that you wish to participate again.

£15 per number payment is to be made to:

Account: North Marston Parish Council - Sportsfield

Sort code: 30 99 74 Account no: 00587128

Please use 100 Club and your surname as the reference.

Alternatively payment can be made by cheque payable to North Marston Parish Council – Sports Field. Drop your cheque into any member of the sports field committee. The most convenient way to pay is by annual Standing Order. Please set this up at your bank and confirm to gordon.bowden@qhfp.co.uk that you have done it.

NEW PARTICIPANTS

There will be some numbers available for new participants. If you want to participate please let me know.

Thanks and good luck in the draws!

Gordon Bowden On behalf of the Sportsfield Committee

gordon.bowden@qhfp.co.uk 07813351998

The Shop

Thank you to everyone who has responded to support The Shop. An increase in volunteers has resulted in our being able to stay open until 5pm and on Saturday mornings. These have proved to be well used by our customers; breakfast pastries and sausages being very popular. We are going to extend to 6pm until Christmas. Opening on a Sunday morning has not been possible. Hopefully we can revisit that in the New Year as new volunteers receive training.

The Shop is currently well stocked with Christmas supplies which are proving popular. Panetones, Christmas puddings, Christmas chocolates and a variety of preserves are all available together with Christmas crackers, cards and wrapping paper. Don't forget you can get your stamps from The Shop.

Thank you all for your support. Merry Christmas

Jane Docwra, Chair.

QUIZ Answers

- 1 It's A Wonderful Life
- 2 I Believe in Father Christmas
- 3 Driving Home for Christmas
- 4 4 – French Hens Geese a laying Maids Milking Ladies
 Dancing
- 5 Earth
- 6 On the frozen Thames
- 7 Washington (Dulles)
- 8 One (Ugly sisters are adopted)
- 9 Australia
- 10 Mistletoe & Wine/Saviour's Day/Millennium Prayer

Class 3 Roman Day Trip

On 3rd November, Class 3 went to Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre for a Roman day.

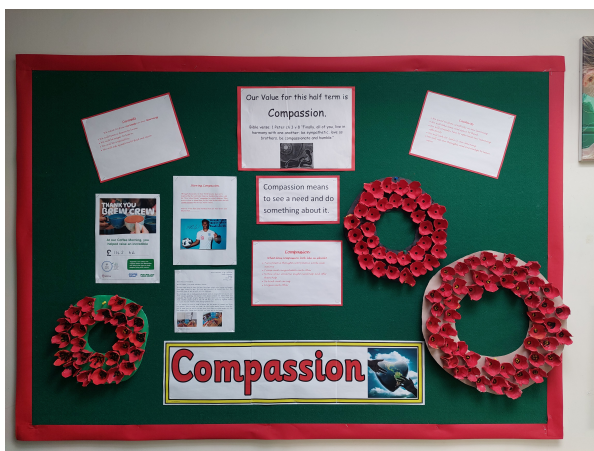
The first activity we did was to sort a timeline so we knew when the Romans invaded Britain. Next, we met a Roman soldier who told us all about invading Britain and all the weapons they used to fight the Celts. We took our own shields and swords and used them in the drill when he trained us to be a Roman legionary. Some of us got to dress up in sheepskins and Roman helmets and be lookouts. We looked at the soldier's water flask and strigil. We slept leaning on each other so that we were ready to fight. At the end of the session, we got to battle with the teachers and parents who were Britons.

We also got to take part in Boudicca's battle. The Romans were defeated and had to die. We burnt Colchester to the ground. At the end, the Romans defeated the Britons.

After lunch, we had to take part in a banquet. Some of us were guests, some people were slaves and some were entertainers. The slaves had to wipe their guest's mouths and take them to the vomitorium to be sick. They had to fan their guest to keep them cool and wipe their bottom if they went to the toilet. Yuck! The kitchen slaves served the food. They served food like flamingo, dormice, rose petals and fish sauce. The guests had to enter the room with their right foot, had to lie down to eat on their left side and eat with their right hand. The Romans were superstitious about the left side. The entertainers were performing shows.

We had a good day out and really enjoyed it.

Cara, Joseph and Hollie.



GATHERINGS, CLUBS & GROUPS

Oving Tennis Club – your friendly local club

It's definitely autumn now but tennis continues all year round now. This will be the first autumn and winter since our floodlights were installed in March so tennis can be part of your fitness regime all year round.

You can take advantage of only paying half the annual fee until renewal next April – that means you only pay £40 for five months unlimited play as an adult (£15 if unemployed) or £75 for a family. If you think you might be interested in joining the club, why not come along to one of the club sessions to meet us and see what you think? You have a choice between 18.30 on Wednesdays (under floodlights) and 10.30 on Sunday mornings.

If you are interested in joining please contact Peter Docwra on 07710 013081 or visit our web site [Oving Tennis Club - Welcome to Oving Tennis Club](#).

We hope to see you on court soon.

OVING TENNIS CLUB – YOUR FRIENDLY LOCAL CLUB

Could your child be the next Emma Raducanu?

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information, please contact our Club chairman, Dave Williams

daveivorwilliams@hotmail.co.uk



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Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are back meeting face to face each week.

1stgranborough@gmail.com

Adults (18+)

We would still love to hear from any adults (anyone aged 18 and above) who have a bit of free time to help. We are an amazing and incredible collection of leaders and you would have “such fun” with us and our remarkable and wonderful Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

We do need more leaders please. Do think if you could spare an hour or two occasionally. You do not need to have a child in the group to help.

CHURCH NOTICES - December

**St Mary's
Church,
North
Marston**



**St John the
Baptist
Church,
Granborough**



A very warm welcome awaits you at all our Christmas services and events! Whilst Government restrictions have been lifted, with infection rates still high, we remain mindful of the safety of congregations. We ask that you continue to wear masks for services, even when singing. Masks can be removed when refreshments are served. When it comes to seating, you may choose where to sit, but we can also accommodate those who prefer to maintain social distancing, at most services. Please be aware that this may not be possible on busier occasions. In Holy Communion services, we will continue to employ scrupulous safety measures, including dipped wafers, rather than the communal cup.

We look forward to seeing you in church!

NORTH MARSTON

Sunday 5th December: 10.00am Christingle Service

Friday 10th December: 7.30pm Christmas Concert – The Stewkley Singers

Sunday 12th December: 9.30am Holy Communion

Saturday 18th December: 3.00pm Living Nativity

Follow Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem! Their journey starts outside The Wesley Centre and finishes with light refreshments at Owls Oak Stables, Marstonfields. We suggest you wear suitable shoes and clothing, and bring a torch!

Sunday 19th December: 9.30am Nativity Service

Sunday 19th December: 4.30pm Lights of Friendship

Please join us for the lighting of the Christmas tree, and carol singing in the Church. Proceeds from the sale of refreshments, including mulled wine, and the Raffle, will go to Cancer Research UK.

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Please don't forget to bring a torch for the service!

11.30pm Midnight Communion Service, shared with Granborough, in Granborough Church

Christmas Day: 9.30am Family Service

Boxing Day: no service in North Marston Church; team service at Whitchurch, 11.00am

GRANBOROUGH

Sunday 5th December: 5.00pm Christingle Service

Christingle is a celebration that brings families and community together, to share the

light of Jesus and the message of hope. We start by making

Christingles at 4.00pm in Church, followed by the service at 5.00pm.

Then we move to the Village Hall for

the lighting of the Christmas Tree. 1st Granborough Scouts will supply warm mince pies and mulled wine.

Sunday 12th December: 11.00am Nativity Play Service

After missing our Nativity Play last year, due to Covid-19, we are back this year with the hope of making this year's Nativity Play really special as we celebrate together and re-tell the story of Jesus's birth. Please join us for the rehearsal on Saturday 4th December at 3.00pm in church.

Sunday 19th December: 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Mince pies and mulled wine will be served after the service.

Christmas Eve: 11.30pm Midnight Communion Service (shared with North Marston)

Christmas Day: 10.30am Family Service

Boxing Day: no service in Granborough Church; Team Service at Whitchurch, 11.00am

SCHORNE TEAM SERVICES

Whitchurch will continue to livestream a Holy Communion Service each Sunday at 11.00am. Log on to Facebook and find The Schorne Team of Parishes page.

MESSY CHURCH!

Sunday 12th December: 4.00pm. Messy Church will include a rehearsal for the Nativity Play. There will be a further rehearsal on **Friday 17th December at 5.00pm** in the Church.

THE CREW

Year 7 upwards, Thursdays at 7.30pm, school term time only - all are welcome! The Crew are members of Urban Saints and Granborough Church but encourage all faiths, and none, to join together for fun. For more details contact Liz 07805 858338 or Robert 07905 419117

PRAYERS AND SUPPORT

If you have particular concerns that you would like to share and talk through with someone, then please let Petra or Janet know.

In both parishes we have a long-established prayer ministry. To request prayers for family or friends, please contact the Granborough co-ordinators or either minister directly. Requests for prayers will be dealt with sensitivity and confidentiality.

Prayer co-ordinators for Granborough Church:

Jayne Evans jaynegranborough@hotmail.com

Alison Rosser paulandally1979@gmail.com

THURSDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Thursday Morning Prayers (9.30am – 10.30am) are open to all. We are pleased that we will be returning to the Wesley Centre in September. You are very welcome to join us for prayers and lively discussion!

Clergy

Rev Petra Elsmore: 07557045703 petra.elsmore@gmail.com

Rev Janet Bayly: 670245 janet.bayly@gmail.com

Churchwardens North Marston:

Aly Perrett 670302 alysonperrett3@gmail.com

Tricia McSweeney: 670484 tricia.mcsweeney@btinternet.com

Churchwardens Granborough

Alison Rosser 670504 paulandally1979@gmail.com

Robert Kemp 670204 rookery4@aol.com

Useful resources on mental health can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources>

For services and organisations that can offer help and support please check this link:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/your-mental-health/getting-help>

NM Church Cleaning Rota

December

5 Jan Quinn + Pip Hitchen

12 Jean Wright

19 Valerie Price & Gill Warner

24 Penny Anderson (Christmas Eve)

Church Pedestal Rota

December

5 No Flowers (Advent)

12 No Flowers (Advent)

19 No Flowers (Advent)

24 Averil Wilkinson (Christmas Eve)

Granborough Church Flower Rota

Saturday 27th November to Thursday 23rd December

No Flowers – Advent

Friday 24th December All You are invited to decorate the church for Christmas. You can decorate at any time on the Friday as the church is now open during the day. Please let me know in advance what space you will be decorating. Davina

Bin collections dates:**Recycling Bin**

Monday 6th December

Monday 20th December

Thursday 6th January

Tuesday 18th January

Waste Bin

Monday 13th December

Wednesday 29th December

Wednesday 12th January

Monday 24th January

COUNCIL UPDATES

Draft Minutes of the North Marston Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall-Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 8.00pm

Attendees: Cllr Mordue, Cllr Symonds, Cllr Du Plessis, Cllr Boyt, Cllr Newman, Cllr Hogbin-Mills, Cllr Martin, Cllr Gomm, Clerk Rachel Callander & 5 members of the public

Cllr Gomm chaired the meeting as an independent party for planning applications 21/04108/ALB 47 Portway and 21/04041/PIP 49 Portway. In the Open Forum parishioners had 15 minutes for agenda items excluding 47 & 49 Portway applications, followed by 15 minutes where parishioners could voice their questions regarding 47 & 49 Portway. Ian Mordue had the opportunity to speak for 3 minutes on each of the applications. Ian Mordue was absent from the room whilst the discussion and vote took place between councillors on both applications.

100 Club Draw: March Draw: 1st prize 5 Ed Shotton, 2nd prize 35 Stuart Lane, 3rd prize 23 Graham Jenner

1. Members Interests: All Councillors 103/21-21/04108/ALB & 21/04041/PIP, Cllr Du-Plessis 107/21 playground paving quote, Cllr Newman 107/21 registry of common land.

2. 103/21 Planning Applications:

No objections subject to the heritage report: 21/04108/ALB 47 Portway

Objection based on lack of information: 21/04041/PIP 49 Portway

No objections: 21/04022/APP 20 Shepherds Close

Discussed 21/00657/ACL completed (Application for a Lawful Development Certificate) – large dormer windows overlooking Granborough Rd and Gibbins Close residents – Cllr Gomm to advise

3. Buckinghamshire Council

1. Drainage clearance still ongoing and in North Marston this is nearly complete and broken grates mended with a few exceptions

2. Highways closures are carefully being monitored to help residents

3. BCC looking to replace the water drains in the future to prevent road issues

4. Winslow and Villages Community board are allocating grants for various activities towards phase 2 of the Big Bucks Tidy Up. North Marston has requested BCC to help with litter picking as the activity to help the community. A team from the village has already started to form.

4. Neighbourhood Plan:

The Neighbourhood Plan enforcement has been delayed. Amendments to the plan will be made and a final report circulated to councillors. Formal endorsement will take place at the December PC meeting on the 14th December. In the interim all other documents to support the plan can be finalised without endorsement. Consultation will be from 15th December and run for 8 weeks. This will be online, in community spaces and 2 open houses in January and February 2022. There has still not been a formal announcement from BCC.

The NP Steering group would like to thank Trevor Jenkins for his invaluable contribution to the Neighbourhood Plan and wish him well with his move

Acknowledged the Design Code grant, NPG 12442 from Groundworks, for £4,730 has been awarded

5. Parish Action Plan/Projects: Playground - Fault report sent to Kompan October 2021 with 3 areas of concern:

1. Rubber matting installed August 2020 by Kompan sub-contractor. 15th October a 14cm hole was noted on a routine inspection under the big swing seat. Action: Kompan to repair
2. Tufts of grass around the matting. There is membrane under the matting to prevent grass growth. The tufts are due to air born seeds. Action: PC to arrange removal.
3. Several areas around playground rubber matting are starting to give, especially by the roundabout. Action: Cllr Du Plessis to review quote spec and discuss with Kompan.
4. Agreed a fault report will be sent to Kompan regarding the slowness of the Zip wire. Action: Cllr Du Plessis

Registry of common Land – The land going up the middle of the High Street is unregistered Common Land with the exception of the allotments. The Parish Council will investigate registering the land under the PC and provide Brett Newman, owner of The Pilgrim, to have easement for the green outside the pub, allowing the pub to continue full use of land in the same way it has done for many years. The conditions of the easement will be agreed once BCC have advised the process through their lawyers. The purpose of registering the land and the easement are to protect the land usage for the pub and village.

Bench outside Pilgrim –

Resolved: Cllr Newman to provide a quote in the December meeting

Barn Parish Boundary –

1. Noted an anonymous letter was handed to Cllr Gomm in the meeting regarding the piece of land opposite 33 Quainton Road.
2. Agreed the ladies who claim to 'own' the land have been asked to produce land documentation to BCC. Agreed by both parties that an independent Land surveyor can define the boundary between the barn and 'the land'. Agreed Cllr Gomm will request the ladies to pay 50\50 for this to be done. On completion the PC will put up a fence asap.

Village pond and Small Village pond – Trevor Jenkins will send a report to Cllr Mordue for the December meeting to discuss the way forward for both ponds. Cllr Mordue also has the speedwatch equipment and documentation from Trevor Jenkins. Speedwatch will be discussed in the December meeting. The parish Council would like to thank Trevor Jenkins for all his invaluable help looking after the 2 ponds in the village, his contribution to Speedwatch and the Neighbourhood Plan as well as all the help he has given the village and wish him well going forward.

5. Next Parish Council meeting: December 14th at 8pm in the Village Hall

Full minutes can be found on www.northmarston.org

Public Rights of Way (PRoW): Footpaths and Bridleways:

The Parish Council is not responsible for maintaining footpaths, responsibilities are divided between landowners and Buckinghamshire Council (BC). This is a quick guide, detailed information is at <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/environment/public-rights-way/>

Report an issue on a public footpath, bridleway or byway online.
<https://prow.buckscc.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx>

The Ramblers Association: Report path problems through Pathwatch and they will alert the local highway authority. <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/pathwatch-report-path-features-and-problems.aspx>

Village Maintenance

Potholes & Highway Maintenance can be directly on <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk> You can ask for a reference number so that progress can be tracked. (please pass this onto the Parish Council). In an emergency, for instance a severe road defect, a flooded road, or a tree in the road, call Transport for Buckinghamshire on 01296 382416 or 486630 (out of hours).

Lighting

In the event that you see a light not working or is broken please email the clerk (editornorthmarston@gmail.com) with the following information: Road Name, Light Number (will be displayed on the column) OR nearest House Name/Number. Your Contact Details

Important Links:

BCC waste webpages – www.buckscc.gov.uk/HRC

SCRAP Fly tipping, advice on disposing of waste responsibly - www.buckscc.gov.uk/fly-tipping

Apply for a waste permit – www.buckscc.gov.uk/wastepermit

Potholes and Highway maintenance - www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk

Planned Roadworks and diversions – www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads and waste guide – www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/section/recycling-and-waste

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NM&G Sportsfield Chairman	Trevor Lane	01296	670100
NM&G Football	Barry Kirwan	01296 670135	07956 815489
Snr Cricket Club Captain	Gordon Bowden	07813	351998
Jnr Cricket administrator	Trevor Lane	01296	670100
Jnr Crusaders	Karen Bunyan	01296	670814
'The Crew' (snr Crusaders)	Robert Kemp	01296	670204
Granborough Scout Group	1stgranborough@gmail.com		
Granborough Bell Ringers	Malcolm Newman	01296	670483
Granborough Play Area	Tors Firth	01280	823116
Granborough Senior Citizens	Margaret Inkley/ Jackie Lloyd-Jones	01296	670612/ 670210
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Granborough Village Hall Bookings	Ann Sear	01296	670314
Granborough Parish Council	Tors Firth	01280	823116
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Monday Club	Valerie Price	01296	670284

Neighbourhood watch NM	TBC		
Neighbourhood watch (G)	Mark Scholes	01296	670035
North Marston Bell Ringers	Paul Bagni	01296	670522
North Marston Church Wardens	Alyson Perrett/Trisha McSweeny	07814 972629	670484
North Marston Methodist Church	David Heffer	01296	670273
North Marston Parish Council	Rachel Callander	01296	670393
North Marston School	Reception	01296	670286
North Marston Shop		01296	670374
Schorne Pre School	Main line	07703	754397
Village Drama Group (MADS)	Peter Docwra	01296	670567
The Pilgrim	Public House	01296	670969
The Crown	Public House	01296	670216
The Black Boy	Public House	01296	641258
Oving Tennis Club	Peter Docwra	01296	670567
Winslow Surgery	Reception	01296	713434
Whitchurch Surgery	Reception	01296	641203
Police	Call Centre	101	
Police	Crimestoppers	0800	555111
RSPCA	Command Centre	03001	234999
Samaritans	Call Centre	08457	909090
Traveline	Bus/Train Timetables	08706	082608

North Marston & Granborough Calendar

Date	Event	Time
Please see the page 32 for all Christmas services		
5th Dec	G'borough Tree Lighting	17.45
11th Dec	GVH re-opening	14.00-16.00
7/14/21 Dec	Advent course Thurs eve	7.30-9.00pm
10th Dec	Stewkley Singers St Mary's	19.30
6th Feb	Queens Platinum Tea NMVH	15.00-17.00
4 & 5th June	Scarecrow competition	

This is your magazine and so we are happy to publish local news within both communities as well as articles of interest such as stories/poems/announcements/regular columns in the magazine. All contributions to use A5 Word format and 11 point font then send to editornorthmarston@gmail.com by the 25th of each month.

We would love to hear from everyone, of all ages in our local communities.