

February

2021

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Parish Council News

*Snowy scenes and  
signs of spring*

## Snowy Creations and Winter Sun

The recent snow brought us some breathtaking scenery and these happy creations popped up on the sports field too. Thanks to Valerie for the pictures.



## Spring Bulbs and Summer Wildflowers

Look out for snowdrops, crocuses and grape hyacinths popping up now all over the village, the first signs that Spring is on the way.



And **check your letterboxes on Valentine's weekend for a packet of wildflower seed.** Every household will get one. Axford and Ramsbury villagers will be joining us too. Each packet has enough seed for one square metre of wildflower meadow plants; grasses and flowers that will bloom this year and next. Between us all we can make a mosaic of colour to brighten the village and bring things back to life.



## NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE

[www.mildenhallwiltshire.org.uk](http://www.mildenhallwiltshire.org.uk)



The new, improved village website is up and it looks fabulous! Big thanks to Sue Hine for all her hard work.

You can access the Minal News online now, take virtual village tours, check out all the village clubs and amenities. Contributions very welcome – it's our website to celebrate Minal.



## Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan

You should have received a leaflet about the Neighbourhood Plan covering Marlborough and the parishes of Manton, Mildenhall and Savernake. It makes recommendations for future planning and development for housing, public spaces, amenities and local infrastructure.

After four years of hard work by the Steering Group, taking into account views of local people through many open forums, the draft Plan is now open for consultation. Please pass on your views and comments to inform amendments before it goes to Wiltshire Council, and then goes to a referendum. Covid-permitting, this will be by early summer.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents are available at: [www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk](http://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk)

You can send your comments to: [enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov](mailto:enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov)  
This consultation is open now and runs until **5 March 2021**

# What's happening in Minal?



## CHURCH DIARY February 2021

### St John the Baptist Minal

Services on Sundays at 9.00am  
Holy Communion – Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>  
Morning Worship - Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>

### Lent

Shrove Tuesday falls on 16<sup>th</sup> February this year. Also known as Pancake Day, it is when households traditionally used up all the rich foodstuffs ahead of the abstinence of Lent. The word “shrove” comes from the custom for Christians to be “shriven”; going to church to confession and be absolved from their sins on this day before the start of Lent.

Lent is a time of reflection and preparation for Easter. To help that, there will be a series of videos on YouTube by the Bishop of Ramsbury and the Marlborough clergy. Called “Christianity and the Arts” they include talks on its relationship to poetry, literature, music, comedy and pictures. There will also be Zoom meetings each Wednesday. Further details will be on the Minal website.

**St John the Baptist Church is open every day from 9.30 am to 4.00pm.**

For any enquiries email [gordonpepper55@gmail.com](mailto:gordonpepper55@gmail.com)

## Children's playground

This has been a wonderful facility for the community especially over the last year. It is very popular and ideal for short breaks from home schooling. The Parish Council have been vigilant with maintenance and cleaning to keep this vital play space open for all.



## Your Favourite Walks



Where are your favourite local walks? Perhaps its through Savernake Forest, round the triangle, out to Stitchcombe, along Thicketts Lane and Grove Woodlands, or along the cycle track into Marlborough or out to the Downs.

As we take our exercise locally, many of us are enjoying and discovering the joy of living in such a beautiful landscape. We are very lucky to have all this on our doorsteps.

**Please send your favourite routes in for future editions.**

## Book Club

The Book Club is adapting and still active, via email and Zoom, during lockdown. Our next email "Meeting" will be Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February – this month we'll be reading "Between Shades of Gray" (no, not 50 Shades!) by Ruta Sepetys. Get in touch with Deirdre Watson on 512729 or [dwatsonweavers@gmail.com](mailto:dwatsonweavers@gmail.com) to join and stretch your reading muscles.

## A Big Thank You...

To John Bevan for braving the wind and rain of Storm Christoph for over an hour to fix the broken branches over-hanging the Speed indicator. And thanks to Dee Edwards for reporting it too.

John is our Parish Council Chair. As well as all the paperwork, he can often be seen with his tools fixing things around the village. We are lucky that John can turn his hand to so many things.

All our Parish councillors bring a variety of skills and work hard to look after the village and its environment.

**If you would like to join this friendly bunch please contact the Clerk : Sue Hine via [clerk@mildenhallwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@mildenhallwiltshire.org.uk) or telephone 01672 512847**

**Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**more news in the March edition**



If you would like an email copy of this Newsletter then please email [robbailey1@aol.com](mailto:robbailey1@aol.com). To comply with GDPR Regulations we need your permission to email you. Your email address will only be kept for the purpose of distributing the Newsletter.

Newsletters are in various points in the village and please take a few copies and drop them though your neighbours' letterboxes if you think they might not be getting out to pick up one. If you have any articles or information you would like to add to Minal News please email [robbailey1@aol.com](mailto:robbailey1@aol.com)

Thank you from your editing team: *Gilly Price, Rob Bailey, Derek Moss, Milly Carmichael, Clive Scholefield*

Please visit Minal website [www.mildenhallwiltshire.org.uk](http://www.mildenhallwiltshire.org.uk) for more info