

Marton Annual Parish Meeting

Chair: Cllr Faye Chambers

Minutes Taken by Louise Hollings - Parish Clerk

Minutes of Marton's Annual Parish Meeting (APM) held on 6th May 2026 6:30pm.

1. ATTENDANCE

Cllr Faye Chambers (Chair), Louise Hollings (Clerk)

2. APOLOGIES

None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2025 were agreed as accurate and signed by Cllr Chambers.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

Marton Parish Council April 2025 – April 2026

MPC organisation

- There have been no changes in council representatives in 2025-26, councillors remain long-term Marton residents: Faye Chambers, David Fry, Sarah Heath, Rob Lummis and Mike Taylor. All are to be thanked for their continued dedication in volunteering as councillors.
- Louise Hollings has been Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer throughout the year, bringing much appreciated business management experience.
- To be ready for a legal change in requirements, new .gov.uk email addresses have been adopted. Enquiry email contact with the council currently remains possible through clerk@martonvillage.com but will slowly transfer to clerk@martonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Village improvements / maintenance



- Improvements to the playing field pavilion supported by the National Lottery Community Fund have been the biggest change this year, after many years of fundraising, planning and hard work by volunteers, supporters, fundraisers and local tradespeople. The pavilion had a 'grand opening' in late April, showcasing improvements that make the space more accessible and multifunctional for community benefit. Work to create an outdoor deck is being planned to extend these benefits even further.
- MPEG has led a number of work parties to ensure Marton's ongoing commitment to biodiversity and to improve our natural environment, including a specialist hedge laying session with CPRE Warwickshire experts, held in October.
- Monthly defibrillator checks continue to be completed by the clerk and logged on The Circuit (online database) and batteries and

one set of pads have been replaced (at considerable but unquestionably worthwhile cost).

- Community Speedwatch continues to be an important part of efforts to keep residents safe, co-ordinator Adam Hewitt and all the volunteers are to be thanked.
- The Covid-19 Community Network of volunteers, including parish council members, continues to offer support. Cllr Lummis is to be thanked for his regular email and WhatsApp communication with residents.
- The council continues to work with Sustrans and Warwickshire County Council to improve access, signage and information for the Lias Line greenway, which is a much-valued asset for the village and wider area.

Crime reports

- The wider area gained two new PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) this year, bringing the total to four. The police continue to have access to the pavilion on the playing fields as a drop-in Police Hub and have held a number of community consultation opportunities there.
- The year has been one of very few crime reports.
- Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Miranda Aston is to be thanked for her continuing volunteering work.

Finances

- The council voted to increase the precept, as significant rises in electricity and service costs continue to make budget balancing complex.
- Difficult decisions had to be made this year, for example postponing replacement of broken streetlights, in order for the council to remain within its limited budget. All councillors and the clerk are to be congratulated on keeping costs to budget in a challenging financial year.

5. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Reports were presented by the authors, where available.

St Esprit Church (*Jenny Walsh*)

Church Attendance

Church attendance has remained stable with some regular "newcomers". There has been no decline in attendance since we entered interregnum and we continue to hold twice monthly services of Holy Communion as well as the monthly evening service "In the Spirit".

The monthly Deanery service "In the Spirit" is well supported by people from across the diocese. The contemporary worship music and variety of lay speakers are greatly enjoyed.

Festival services, especially the Christmas Carols service and the Easter Breakfast service, are enjoyed by the village community.

PCC Meetings

The full PCC met four times in person in 2025 and once so far in 2026. PCC members are regularly updated and consulted via email re ongoing projects and priorities.

Interregnum

We were all very sad when Richard and Jacqui retired in early September 2025 as they had worked so hard to build up our church community and we greatly appreciate everything they did for both our church family and the parish over the three years of their ministry.

However we are blessed to still have the support of Revd Rob Rogers and Revd Jonathan Hearne during the interregnum. Jonathan's wife Kim has developed a wonderful prayer/ meditation space around the font which is regularly updated to reflect the changing seasons.

Joe Walsh and Jo Shirlaw have worked with representatives from Holy Trinity, Long Itchington, to produce a new Parish Profile and Vision Statement for the benefice.

The documentation was approved by the archdeacons but we understand that further progress in the recruitment process is dependent on Diocesan priorities.

Buildings and Churchyard Report

The building is in a good state of repair although we have some concerns regarding the stonework of boundary walls including the ha-ha. We are due our Quinquennial Review in June 2026 and this will help us to prioritise the next phase of building maintenance and repairs.

Churchyard maintenance has taken place regularly, professional mowing being supplemented by volunteer working parties.

Janet Paget serves as Foundation Governor at Knightlow Primary School and Jenny Walsh serves as Foundation Governor at Long Itchington Primary School appointed by Holy Trinity PCC.

Marton Local History Group (*David Fry*)

The MLHG meets on the last Monday of the month through most of the year apart from our long summer holidays. The full list of meetings is given below

- 27 October 2025 Secret Marton Continued
- 24 November 2025 A History of Local Cement Works
- 26 January 2025 Marton Artists
- 23 February 2025 Ladbroke Village History
- 23 March 2025 Ladbroke Church visit
- 27 April 2025 AGM + A review of MLHG first sixteen years

As before the MLHG Committee has noted that attendance is always best for talks that relate to the near locality. This was especially true for the turnout for the talk on Marton Artists. The committee continues to bear this in mind despite the limitations of the criterion.

The MLHG committee gave notice at the April AGM that they were taking a break from organising a programme of talks/events for the next year. The difficulty of preparing, presenting talks or finding appropriate outside speakers has taken its toll on the limited number of individuals who feel comfortable with such challenges. After more than fifteen years all the readily available topics had already been covered and the presentations available on the village website.

This is not the end of Marton Local History. The committee will live on, if only to administer the bank account! However, the delayed plan to produce a booklet of old photos and commentary that offers an insight into Marton's History should be completed by this time next year.

The Committee are also looking to promote one off talks where the opportunity arises for topics of local history interest. They will also remain a source of knowledge for any queries about Marton's past that crop up from time to time.

If you have a topic you think could be of interest and are prepared to put some work into making it a viable topic for a meeting, **please contact via email: df@davidfry.net**

Finally, a great big thank you to the Local History Group Committee whose time in organising the activities, and organisation on the night of the meetings makes the whole enterprise possible and not forgetting those who have supported the meetings.

Mpeg (Marton Practical Ecology Group) (*Sarah Heath*)

The wildflowers areas grew strongly in 2025 and provided a good mix of flowers which the butterflies and insects enjoyed. Thanks to the hard work of people from the village the areas were cut and the cuttings gathered and moved a week later. This year the areas have been covered in cowslips.

Other main areas of work completed have been thanks to CPRE. CPRE provided the tools, materials and expertise to lay the hedge on the playing field. This was completed over 2 days with members of the village helping the first day and a team building group from Highways Agency the second day.



CPRE also provided us with 300 hedgerow plants which a number of us planted in January along the bottom edge of the playing field. The vast majority of these are now growing and producing leaves.



Marton Playing Fields Association (*Dinyar Baria*)

“KEEPING MARTON ACTIVE IN BODY AND MIND”

The AGM was held on Tuesday 14th April 2026.

1. Chairman’s report 2025

Marton Get Together Day on **28th June 2025** which was a combination of sports, vintage cars, art exhibition and a collection of some amazing stalls – showcasing local businesses and activities as well as raising a huge amounts of money for the MPFA.

Pig Racing Night – In October, the MPFA hosted a race night in the village hall. It was another great success, and we’ll be looking to do a repeat ‘meet’ with Horses this year.

Pavilion Development – Thanks to the generosity of villagers, Cemex and National Lottery Community Grant funding of £20k the pavilion has been developed. Special thanks to Lou Beddoe Rugby Community & Voluntary Action (CAVA), Dominic Rudge, MPFA’s very own Kevin Baseley and Parish Clerk Louise Hollings for all the help (and perseverance!) in making this happen.

Wildflowers/Trees - MPEG (Marton Practical Ecology Group) have continued their work to improve the biodiversity on the playing fields and to care for the raised beds in the playground. The wildflower areas continue to mature, and a greater diversity of plants are now making an appearance together with the associated insect life.

Friday Night at the Pavilion – will be continuing this year as we make the most of the long lazy summer evenings to come.

Petanque - Thanks to MPFA members Alan and Dave, the Petanque court has been upgraded with some fresh specialist gravel/grit. All villagers are welcome to play on the court whenever they fancy it.

Goal Posts - Also thanks to Alan, we have new goal posts that are a lot better and safer for children to use. Please remind them though they are not to be climbed on or hung from!!!

2. Treasurer’s report

Current Account (HSBC)
20.04.26 – £445.73

Savings Account (HSBC)
06.04.26 –£248.70

3. MPFA Member's

Elected as follows for 2026 to 2027

Chair/Treasurer – Dinyar Baria

Deputy Chair - John Buchanan

Secretary – Richard Gardner

Committee Members – Kevin Baseley, Alan Naylor, Bernie Bayliss (also representing the village Hall), David Fry (also representing Museum of Country Bygones & Parish Council), David Inman, Cate Cooke, Mark Duncan.

Marton Museum (*David Fry*)

It has been another busy year at the museum. We continue to benefit from the new storage area to keep duplicate items, freeing up space in the museum. We have continued the gradual process of revising and improving the displays and together with necessary DIY work the general state of the museum has been improved.

The major display work has related to the kitchen area and the dairy section. The former has been completely reset with additional shelving and improved lighting. Similarly, additional shelving in the dairy section has allowed better spacing of the items for improved access. The whole dairy area has been comprehensively relabelled with diligent work from local DofE students.

Outside the museum we were given a large farm grindstone, its wooden supports were in poor shape and have been completely remade. - Thanks to two of our agricultural volunteers. Also a large plaque describing the display within the sheep hurdles.

Last year's temporary displays were based on the Heritage Open Days theme for 2025 of 'Architecture'. This coming year it will be based on 'Every Histories' ready for the Heritage Open Days in September. We will be taking an especial focus on the lifetime of Graham Robson as a farmer in the village. The museum will continue to take part in this national event as it has for many years as the county-wide publicity brings many visitors to the museum over the open weekend.

Publicity for the museum is still desperately needed as we are always surprised by the number of people who live locally but do not know of its existence. We continue to work on this through our website, use of social media, items in local village magazines as well as regular notices in the Southam District Advertiser. Regular talks to Warwickshire organisations results in follow up group visits which provide a useful revenue boost with seven already booked for this summer. We especially enjoyed the day visit last summer of the Southam Primary School. Having stands at the Kenilworth Show and Gaydon Motor Museum events also help to spread the message.

Reaching out to groups through our talks often results in out-of-hours group visits to the museum through the summer months. With drinks and cake provided by the wonderful museum volunteers this is a great source of revenue.

The museum was, and will be, open throughout the summer 2.00-4.00 on Sunday afternoons from late May to the end of September, as well as hosting groups at other times.

Finally, a great big thank you to all the volunteers whose generous donation of time makes the museum a viable operation.

Neighbourhood Watch (*Miranda Aston*)

The main news for this year is we now have a PC supporting our area - his name is PC Sebastian Payne PC2223, this is in addition to our PCSO's David Banks 6137 and Samantha Goode 6252. They can be contacted on their shared email address rrs.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

It is important to stress though, that any crimes should still be reported on-line or via the phone number 101, and in an Emergency or Crime in progress, ALWAYS ring 999.

Crime in Marton is very low compared to some of the larger areas near to us - Ryton on Dunsmore, Southam and Rugby Marton as a village is extremely well connected, which is a major help in aiding us to be vigilant, and to look out for any suspicious activity, and quickly share this to alert the village.

We currently have four main means of communication :-

[.Marton Google Mail group](#)

[.Marton Warwickshire Main Chat WhatsApp group](#)

[.Marton \(Warwickshire\) Village Gossip facebook group](#)

[.Marton Newsletter](#)

To be added to the Google mail or Whatsapp group please contact Rob Lummis on lummisrob@gmail.com

It is this level of communication that I feel inspires a sense of real community, and a level of care for each other that makes Marton a very special place.

I will continue to share any communications that I receive from the Police or from Neighbourhood Watch - these are usually in the form of emails to The Marton Google Group.

Please keep safe, keep vigilant, please report any incidents to the police and contact Miranda if you have any questions / suggestions or simply want crime prevention advice.

Marton Newsletter (*David Fry*)

In February this year the Marton Newsletter celebrated its sixteenth birthday in a magazine format. A print run of 225 copies is delivered each month for every household in the village (and a few beyond). This involves contributions by a team of regular writers, together with guest contributions, which are then compiled by a small editing team. The printed copies are delivered by yet another team of volunteers who have battled through the many wet days this year to get the copies out.

We feel that along with the village website and other social media, the Newsletter has a role in keeping all villagers informed and helping to promote a sense of community and its benefits makes the effort involved worthwhile. Although a PDF copy is posted on the website, for many, the paper copy through the letter box provides a more enjoyable way of taking in village news and events.

Financing the Newsletter has become less of a concern in the last couple of years. Advertising income continues to be our most important support, but that has been in decline in recent years. The generous donations from residents for Christmas greetings has helped to compensate. A special appeal this year in the December edition brought in an exceptional amount that has given better financial security. This was essential given that there is no longer the substantial contribution from the proceeds of the October Art Exhibition, which used to provide an important financial buffer. Fortunately our printer has not significantly raised costs and continues to offer a very competitive service and quality of reproduction.

For the time being, with the continued support of the volunteers, article writers and the village in general, we have a business plan that secures the future of the Newsletter.

Marton Walkers (*Mike Johnson*)

Unfortunately this last year saw fewer walks than in previous years. We have since our AGM in January tried to recruit more walkers each month with some improvement although it tends to vary from month to month.

The weather over the year has been similar to last year's report although it was exceptionally wet earlier this year. Walks that have taken place during the year have covered the following areas, Bubbenhall, Braunston, Brandon, Harbury, Stretton, Ufton and some other local villages, not forgetting our lunches at the local pub.

Our membership has remained fairly static during the year, but we did lose Paul and Kath when they decided to move to Scotland.

Anyone wanting to join Marton Walkers (no membership fee - just turn up) please email Mike Johnson at mikeofmarton@hotmail.com or ring 07753 968570.

We walk generally on the last Sunday of the month at 10-00 AM covering approximately 5 miles followed by a meal / drink which is optional. We also use our Whats App Group - Marton Walkers for information and communication.

From Mike Johnson on behalf of Marton Walkers.

KEEP WALKING

Marton Pig Club (*Sarah Heath*)

The pigs arrived 6th April in 2025 from Charlie and Pip. There were 8 male British Saddleback piglets who settled in really quickly.

They enjoyed clearing out the field and in the warm weather we enjoyed they spent many happy hours in their wallow.

After a few short months they had fattened sufficiently for us to take them to the abattoir. Joseph Morris do a great job for us providing all the different cuts and sausages that our members ask for.

This year the club is up and running again. If you are interested in joining us next year please let us know and we will make sure you are included in any communications we make.

Sarah, Andrew, Helen, Colin



Marton War Memorial Hall *(Rob Lummis)*

2025/2026 was another busy year in the life of Marton, and all of its organisations including the Village Hall. Always great to see the Hall regularly in use for a number of activities supporting the good health and wellbeing of Villagers and their friends with weekly Pilates and Yoga classes and monthly Karate sessions. The Table Tennis Club, now well established, continues to meet weekly during term time and goes from strength to strength - there's always room for new members!

As usual the Hall was a great place for Martonians to watch some sport whilst enjoying a drink and great conversation. From a football point of view we had the usual diet of highs and lows with the memorable high being the retention of the Euros trophy by the Lionesses making up for the loss they sustained against Spain in the World Cup Final in 2024. Marton's rugby fans were able to indulge in the annual Six Nations tournament, another disappointing season for England with thoughts starting to turn towards the next Rugby World Cup in 2027. Before that we have Nations Cup Rugby to look forward to this summer and autumn and there is the small matter of the Men's Football World Cup - will this be the end of sixty years of hurt?...its great to show sport, and other events, on the big screen....we are always open to requests.

We were delighted to host a number of social events throughout the year. In May we shut Church Street so we could run a Street Party in support of the nationwide celebrations to remember VE Day. The monthly Marton Cinema continued to run throughout the year with a group of regular attendees enjoying a relaxing film to start their weekends off. For another year the decision was taken to go ahead with a slimmed down Marton Night Out and yet again we had an excellent evening being entertained by a number of Villagers and friends taking the opportunity of an open mic. The evening was so successful that consideration is being given to whether it would be feasible to attempt to go back to the original Marton Night Out format for this year.

In February we had another very successful Village Hall Quiz brilliantly led by Danny Dawes. As always the quiz was a well attended event and remains a wonderful opportunity for many villagers to get together early in the New Year. Other one offs included a return visit from Giles Shenton with another of his one man productions, "My Dog has no Nose" and earlier this year we were treated to an excellent evening when we were entertained by The Baggy Oak Strugglers, a local band of ukulele players who got feet tapping, hands clapping and a happy audience singing along to a range of tunes that included Buddy Holly, John Denver and Supertramp!

Along with the regular events we are very happy with a couple of new additions...we now have a more regular programme of visits from mobile food vendors. Villagers have been treated to delicious Burgers, Mexican Food and Fish and Chips which has gone down very well. The other addition to the calendar which we hope will become a regular fixture is the series of Barrie Talks. Barrie Cressey is delighting audiences with his informative presentations on a number of topics. His first series looked at 20th century art through different lenses including the history of the Hippy

movement and also record album covers and his current series has covered the meaning behind nursery rhymes and will shortly be looking at the influence of Protest Songs.

We are, as a committee, pleased to provide support for other Marton organisations, from the MPFA to the MPC. We were delighted to support two of the MPFA's main fund raising events of the year, in July we supported the Marton Get Together and in October the very successful Dog Racing Night. In March the Hall was used once again as the venue for starters and then coffee and after dinner drinks following the Progressive Dinner, an important event in the diary of St Esprit.

Other organisations who regularly use the Hall include the Parish Council, Marton History Group, Arts and Crafts Group and the Pig Club. Mary and her volunteers continue to run the excellent afternoon teas once a month. In February it was great to be able to get Mary's 2026 fund raising for Cancer Charities off to a great start with a Charity Bingo Evening which was enjoyed by a good number of Martonians.

This year has seen a number of improvements to the Village Hall; with big thanks to Colin Tinker we have introduced an electronic key box process and also proper monitoring of fridge temperatures. The biggest project, led by Colin, was the replacement of the hall windows which has been something we have needed to do for some time. This has made a massive difference and we will shortly be completing the job by fitting new blinds.

The Marton Community Network, set up in 2020 by the Village Hall, Church and Parish Council has continued to function offering support to Villagers who need some help - whether it is picking up shopping or a prescription or transport to a medical appointment, there is always someone willing and able to give some support.

In conclusion I must thank all of the Committee Members, and their families (who are regularly dragged in to help), for the hard work and support over the last year; we couldn't keep going without you! I must make a special mention of two people who continue to willingly give their time to support the Hall. Kevin has undertaken a number of maintenance projects over the last year and Mary who is always willing to lend a hand - thank you! There is always plenty to do and we are always pleased to hear from people who would like to lend a hand, or volunteer to help with specific projects - please give us a shout if you would like to be involved.

Finally, I am sad to announce that one member of the Committee took the decision to step down at the end of last year after many years of great support. Andrew Heath, has contributed loads in lots of areas including maintenance and the very important role of keeping the bar stocked - thank you Andrew, you will be missed! I'm pleased to say that we should shortly be able to announce a number of new committee members.

The Village Hall is delighted to be a part of the Marton Community - please continue to support the events we put on and let us know if there is anything you, your families and friends would like to see.

6. A.O.B

During the presentation of the Organisation Reports there was only one comment raised:

St Esprit Church - The report did not mention the annual Progressive Dinner which is a key fund raiser for the church and enjoyed by many residents.