

MARWOOD POP-UP-PUB Newsletter Spring 2024

Following the great work of Malcolm Higdon and his team, our new team took on the running of the Marwood Pop-up-Pub (PUP) in autumn 2022 and we held our first event on 16th December that year.

In March 2023, the team formed a small 'Unincorporated Community Association' as a 'not for profit' organisation. Each member of the team gives their time as a volunteer and does not in any way benefit financially from this venture. The aims of the group as laid out in its constitution are to:

1. Promote a stronger sense of community amongst residents of the Parish of Marwood and adjoining communities.
2. Organise pub like activities to achieve the above.
3. Use any profits from the above activities to support local good causes.

Officers have been appointed and a bank account has been opened.

In the 12 months of 2023, the team organised 14 events. These include the regular monthly events on the third Friday of each month and two additional community events - The Community Event to celebrate the King's Coronation on 7th May and the Three Village Fun Run on 24th June. Both of these events were kindly hosted by Margaret Pover in the grounds of The Old Rectory.

With the exception of our monthly event in June, which was held at Marwood Gardens, all other monthly events have been held at Marwood Church Hall and we are very grateful to the Church Hall committee for allowing us the opportunity to use this venue which has worked so well for us.

We have been averaging between 60-70 guests for each event although this increased significantly for the event held at Marwood Gardens where we saw about 150 people attending. As it was so popular, we were hoping to hold a second event at the gardens in July, but sadly, bad weather prevented that. We are very grateful to Georgia Taylor-Smart for allowing us to use the gardens and, with her kind permission, we hope to return there in the lighter months of 2024 weather permitting. 😊

In support of local businesses our beer is sourced from 'GT Ales' at Chivenor and we seek to use locally distilled gin. In the Spring of 23 we also explored the idea of having local mobile food providers for our monthly events. These appear to have been very well received and, as a result, plans are in place for food to be made available at our PUP evenings throughout 2024.

We have an email circulation list of 240 plus recipients but are very keen to add to this. Since we started, we are pleased to hear that other communities have also started their own occasional PUP events so seeing our aim to strengthen communities spreading beyond Marwood.

As well as paying for stock and essential equipment to run the pub, the income from sales covers other ongoing costs including the hire of the hall, temporary event notices and public liability insurance.

In line with our aim to use profits to support local good causes, we have been able to purchase picnic tables, a new microwave and some other equipment for the Church Hall as well as exploring options for PUP profits to cover the costs of Wifi to the building for others to use. However, this has presented some technical challenges which we are still trying to overcome.

We hope you feel that this venture is helping to strengthen community relationships. If you have any ideas about how you think we can improve what we do, please do feel free to share it with the team and we will gladly consider it when we meet together.

Thank you so much for your support. You are the reason we do this. 😊

Roger Bartlett (Chair)

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