



The Mardler

Swanton Morley Parish Council's Newsletter

Forty Fifth Edition | Christmas 2020



Welcome to your winter Mardler. Swanton Morley Parish Council would like to wish each and every one of our parishioners a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Your Mardler takes on a slightly different format this edition with a round up of what has happened in the village this year—focussing on the positives! And a chance to test your local knowledge with our **village quiz** - see the centre pages for more information.

A message from your Parish Clerk...

This year has been a very strange year, but it has been particularly humbling to see the Community spirit in Swanton Morley. We have all played a part in keeping the village going, whether that be a conversation, helping a neighbour or sharing as much information as possible to help each other. All of our community activities were cancelled this year which was a disappointment that we all shared however I hope you will join me in looking positively to 2021 and hopefully coming together as a village once again. I would like to thank everyone that has taken the time to support each other, and I would like to thank our Parish Councillors for providing ongoing support through these unprecedented times. We have kept going and our door is always open. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

Kelly Pickard - Clerk to Swanton Morley Parish Council



Key Dates:

Parish Council Meetings	Monday, 11th January 2021
	Monday, 8th February 2021
	Monday, 8th March 2021
	Monday, 12th April 2021
	Monday, 10th May 2021







Swanton Morley Parish Council



**Swanton Morley Village Hall
Mann's Lane
Swanton Morley
Dereham
NR20 4NP**



www.swantonmorleypc.info

	01362 637166		parishcouncil @swantonmorley.org
	@SwantonMorleyPC		@swantonclerk
Village Hall:			
	@SwantonMorley VillageHall		admin @swantonmorley.org

Your Parish Clerk: Mrs Kelly Pickard

Please contact us with your concerns or ideas for the village using any of the above methods....we look forward to hearing from you.

Our office hours are:

9am – 12midday Monday - Friday

Your Councillors:

Mr Roger Atterwill Chairman 01362 637383/ 01362 637000	Mrs Brenda O'Dowd Vice Chairman 01362 637226	Mr Stephen Westbury 01362 637454
Mr John Keen 07767 405098	Mr Geoffrey Curran 01362 637069	Mr Jose Rodrigues c/o 01362 637166
Mr Ian Cawdron 07754 536716	Mr David Turner 07719 177527	Mr Jim Venworth 01362 637963

The Parish Council meets on the second Monday of each month. Meetings begin at 7.30 and public are always welcome. The agenda for each meeting can be found displayed on the notice board at the junction of Woodgate Lane and Greengate (or on our website).

A Letter from your chairman...

Dear Resident,

This year has been unprecedented with members of our community facing uncertain and difficult times. Many people have seen their income fall, children have had their education disrupted and vulnerable people have had to shield themselves at home. In addition to this, some of you will have family or friends who have been directly affected by the Coronavirus.

I am immensely proud that Swanton Morley has remained resilient throughout this period. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has provided support for our community this year, especially David Smith and his team at Swanton Morley Butchers and Jose & Marilu Rodrigues at Swanton Morley Stores who have provided a fantastic community service during the periods of lockdown, offering an additional home delivery service for vulnerable residents who have been shielding. I would like to thank our team of dedicated volunteers who offered their service to help our vulnerable residents and also the staff at the surgery, the school and Lincoln House care home who have had to adapt very quickly to new ways of working. I have also been impressed by the acts of kindness and community spirit people have displayed this year. These are too numerous to mention here but one example is those individuals who have kindly carried out litter picking in the village.

The Parish Council has also had to adapt quickly this year. Our staff have worked very hard, often having to change their working practices at short notice. Whilst the village hall has been closed our caretaking team has completely redecorated the interior and some furnishings have been replaced. This will ensure that it is in good order for a time when normal service can resume. We are grateful to our regular hirers and people who have booked the hall for their own special event, who have continued to support us and been flexible with their bookings. Our Clerk, Kelly and Admin Assistant, Maddi have been working remotely from home throughout and have managed to maintain good and effective contact and support for parishioners and councillors. We now have two brand new websites which the staff have been working on:

www.swantonmorley.info and **www.swantonmorleyvillagehall.co.uk**

where you can find a great deal of information about the work of the Parish Council and the Village Hall. In addition to this you can contact us directly by telephone or Facebook.

It has been disappointing this year that we have had to cancel our plans to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day,

continued overleaf...

A Letter from your chairman cont....

the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the 25th Anniversary since the RAF left Swanton Morley in 1995. We also had a party planned to celebrate the 25th Birthday of Swanton Morley Village Hall. I am sure we all look forward to a time when we can safely get together again and resume the normality of village life. With the news that a vaccine will be available soon there is now some cause for optimism going into 2021.

On behalf of the councillors and staff I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Roger Atterwill
Chairman
Swanton Morley Parish Council



24 April 2020

Swanton Morley Parish Council was awarded funding from the Norfolk Community Foundation through the **Covid-19 Community Response Fund** to support the **Swanton Morley COVID-19 Volunteer Response Team** and provide much needed stationery, supplies and equipment.

The project was set up in response to requests received in mid-March from some concerned parishioners who, quite rightly, saw that there would be a need to address the impacts of the Coronavirus and its effect on our community. The objective was to bring together enthusiastic volunteers from the Villages of Swanton Morley, Hoe and Worthing, to coordinate their efforts and to support our community by helping with day to day necessities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the country went into a three-month period of lockdown, some residents of the villages were self-isolating after having contracted Coronavirus and others received a letter from the Government asking them to shield.

With the help of Kelly, the Parish Clerk, and Maddi, the Administrator, we arranged to have flyers printed with our details, which were hand-delivered to every house in the three villages.

Swanton Morley COVID-19 Volunteer Response Team – our Mission

To offer:

- Shopping for urgent supplies
- Collecting and delivering prescriptions
- Posting mail
- Walking dogs
- Help with other animals
- Telephoning for a chat
- Shopping for supplies not available in the village

We also addressed the needs of other people in the wider community who might also appreciate help such as stretched medical staff and volunteers, staff and volunteers in key worker roles, supermarket workers and delivery drivers.

Our volunteers



This is Ellie Jackson, one of our volunteers who regularly telephones one of our elderly residents. She says, “I’m really proud to be part of the team of volunteers ready to help the village when needed. We are a lovely village with lots of support available and I feel pleased to be able to lend a hand.”

Another volunteer says, “Volunteering, is now more important than ever. The feeling of coming together to help others, in whatever way we can, is life affirming. We are so blessed, in Swanton Morley, with a strong community spirit.”

Volunteer Shane Rose answered the call to dig over a vegetable patch for one resident. This turned out to be a little arduous, especially as it was in the heat of the early summer and the ground was rock hard! However, Shane is not one to be put off by a challenge, and here are the before and after photographs to prove it. A job well done and one very appreciative resident.



A very important point is made very eloquently by one of the other local residents, and she is happy to be quoted. Both over 70, her partner is in the extremely vulnerable category.

“It’s the kindness of strangers which is totally disarming. The peace of mind it provides and the sense of not being cast aside as a used-up retired generation, but by being given practical, emotional support in these awful times, is absolutely priceless in the extreme, and will be remembered long after this epoch is old news. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts”

Here is another extract from a letter from a local resident, not a recipient himself but someone who is in contact with a very vulnerable person.

“It has come as a huge relief to everybody here to know that the collaborative efforts of our volunteers, liaising with the social services, local authority and health service will enable our friend to maintain her independence for a longer time. We send our gratitude to all of them and our thanks also go to the fund providers who can be confident the money donated to enable this essential, voluntary service to operate, is being put to good use.”

Our village is a very old settlement, the Church is mentioned in the Domesday Book. It is also serviced by two shops so, a very special THANK YOU to Swanton Morley Stores and Swanton Morley Butchers for their hard work, long hours and caring support for our community. It is amazing having people as committed as you, your families and staff on our side every day in these tough times.



We are managing to deliver the services that we signed up for and are ready to take on new challenges. As you can see from the photographs, and the testimonials, the benefits of volunteering can have an enormous impact on the community. Volunteering is a way of connecting people in our community - making it a better place. Even helping out with the smallest tasks can make a real difference to the lives of people. And volunteering is a two-way street: It

benefits the volunteer as much as the person on the receiving end. You find yourself making new friends because you are going through this experience together.

It is good for the mind and the body. If you volunteer to fetch shopping, prescriptions or even walking someone's dog, you are getting out in the fresh air and exercising. Whatever way you make contact with the other person, and this includes phone calls, you are making a meaningful connection to another human being. This is vital for our mental health in our stressful, locked down and isolated world.

It is satisfying and fun. If you are enjoying the work, it can be a relaxing, energising escape from your day-to-day routine which, in these times can be monotonous. Many of our volunteers enjoy being motivated to get out and be active, using their skills and local knowledge to help others. Some of our volunteers are isolating themselves, or have limited mobility, but have still stepped forward and make regular contact calls to other residents.

The boring bit – some statistics of our activity since March 23rd:

35 volunteers

73 requests fulfilled

Brenda R O'Dowd
Vice-Chair Swanton Morley Parish Council
Volunteer coordinator
01362 637226
07720 771641



Climate Action for Swanton Morley

Following the declaration of a 'climate emergency' for our village, Swanton Morley Parish Council established a working group to deal with the environmental issues that affect all of us. Why did we do this? It was clear that there are things that we can do to influence local policy decisions and we wanted to make our voice heard.

Prior to the Covid-19 lockdown, the group met at the village hall to discuss what actions we could take that could have a positive impact on our village environment. Whilst the ongoing restrictions have limited what we have been able to achieve this year, CASM is still very much alive!

The lockdown in March/April provided a stark reminder of the impact we humans have on our environment. Global daily emissions of CO₂ fell by 17% at the peak of the crisis and who can forget the images we saw of empty roads!

Continued on page 10...

1-5 Name 5 Lanes in Swanton Morley

6 Where is the war memorial located in Swanton Morley?

7 What is the name of the church in Swanton Morley?

8 How many stained-glass windows are there at the church?

9 Name one of the saints depicted in the stained-glass windows

10 What material is the church built with?

11 What carvings are on the West doors?

12 How many stone crosses are in the churchyard?

13 What is the largest cross called?

14 How many war graves are there?

15 What is the tallest part of the church called?

16 What is the name of the river seen from the churchyard?

17 What Building can you see over the river?

18 When was RAF Swanton Morley built?

19 When did RAF Swanton Morley Close?

20 What significant event of WW2 took place from RAF Swanton Morley on 4 July 1942?

21&22 Which two statesmen were present in Swanton Morley for this event?

23 What is the name of the current Regiment based at Swanton Morley?

24&25 Name the two other army regiments who have resided at Robertson Barracks

26 Which American President has his family roots in Swanton Morley?

27 Which building was the family's home?

28 'SCD' rearranged, American Independence celebrations and Swanton Morley. Who is the link?

29&30 Name two people Buried at Hingham church with Historic connections to our Village.

31 Where are the allotments in Swanton Morley?

32&33 Where are the two defibrillators located in Swanton Morley?

34 How many wind turbines are at the school in Swanton Morley?

35 What was the name of the C888 road before it was reclassified?

36 What year did the Tour of Britain (bicycle race) pass through the village?

37-43 From the Doctor's surgery via Woodgate to Penny Spot Brook what are the 7 roads/lanes/etc. that you will walk along or pass by?

44 Which road in Swanton Morley has double yellow lines?

45&46 Where in the village will you find a Belisha Beacon & when were these introduced (UK)?

47 What is the British Standard flash rate for a Belisha Beacon?

48 How many Commons are there in Swanton Morley Parish?

49&50 What two birds are on the sign at Burgh Common?

51 How many pieces of play equipment are installed at Gooseberry Hill play park?

52 What new piece of play equipment that was installed there this year?

53 Where is the Village flag pole located?

54 How many red telephone boxes are in the Village?

55 How many Christmas trees have been put up by the Parish Council this year?

THE BIG QUIZ

TEST YOUR LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE!

ENTRY DETAILS CAN BE
FOUND ON THE BACK COVER
– QUESTIONS SUPPLIED BY
YOUR PARISH COUNCIL AND
FRIENDS (THANK YOU) –

GOOD LUCK!

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- 56 What year did Swanton Morley New Village Hall open?
- 57 Name the mascot used to help raise funds to build the village hall
- 58 How many pieces of outdoor gym equipment are installed at the Village Hall?
- 59 What is the name of the Nursery at Swanton Morley Village Hall?
- 60 How many goal posts are on the two fields at the Village Hall?
- 61 What year did the current school open?
- 62 The original village school was located on Town Street. What year was it opened?
- 63 What year was Swanton Morley named the East of England village of the year?
- 64 What can you use on Harkers lane and Green lane that you can't on other village paths?
- 65 Which of Swanton Morley's Village paths has the Highest Point?
- 66 What Norfolk Trail passes through Swanton Morley?
- 67 I'm usually wrong but twice a day I'm right as can be plainly seen in our village. What am I?
- 68 What is the link between an Old closed village pub and a fire in the early 19th Century.
- 69 What date was the main Bridge at Swanton Morley built?
- 70 What was condemned in Swanton Morley in 1915?
- 71 In what year did Darby's Freehouse celebrate its 25th anniversary?
- 72 Who was the last resident of Darby's before it became a pub?
- 73 Of the once five pubs in Swanton Morley, two exist today & a third is a B&B. Name another!
- 74 Why is Darby's so called?
- 75 Why was The Papermakers Arms (AKA The Papermakers) so called?
- 76 What year did The Papermakers close?
- 77 In what year was the first brewers licence issued for The Angel?
- 78 Prior to the Covid-19 lockdown, The Angel held a coffee morning on which day of the week?
- 79 The Angel holds a beer festival at what time of the year?
- 80 Darby's famously held a children's Christmas party each year. Who last performed as Santa?
- 81 How many councillors form Swanton Morley Parish Council?
- 82 What is the acronym for Swanton Morley's climate action group?
- 83&84 Name the two places in Norfolk beginning with the letter "Q"
- 85 In what year did the University of East Anglia open?
- 86 What is the oldest pub in Norwich?
- 87&88 There are two place names in Norfolk with only three letters, name them
- 89 Norfolk has 659 medieval churches - how many have round towers? 132, 146 or 125.
- 90 Lord Nelson was born on the 29th September in 1758 but in which Norfolk Village?
- 91 Howard Carter grew up in Swaffham but what was he famous for discovering?
- 92 Which Family live at Holkham Hall?
- 93&94 Two other villages in Norfolk have the pre-fix "Swanton". Can you name both?
- 95 In what year was Bylaugh Hall first built?
- 96 Who originally had the hall built?
- 97 Bylaugh Hall is the headquarters for which magazine, in continuous publication since 1885?
- 98-100 After Swanton Morley, which three villages does the Wensum flow through before Norwich?



Cont... Our recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan includes policies covering energy generation, green space and biodiversity. Developers must consider the long-term consequences of their developments with regard to the reduction of the carbon footprint. CASM will require that buildings are energy efficient, have renewable energy production technologies, tree planting etc.

Whilst the council will continue to push developers in the right direction, there are many things we can do as individuals that can have a significant effect:

Food waste. Over 10 million tonnes of food are binned each year in the UK. This wasted food has taken loads of fresh water, land and labour to produce. If it were a country, food waste would be the third highest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world!

Reduce, reuse and recycle. Ask yourself, do I need another plastic bag? If I can't manage without it, can I use it again? Once I've finished with it, take it to an outlet that will recycle (e.g. supermarkets). We need to take a similar approach with other items e.g. clothing.

Public transport. As a rural community, public transport is a vital service for many. Using public transport rather than our own cars can also have a significant effect on vehicle-related pollution, which also benefits public health.

Domestic heating and lighting. Boiler on the blink? Rather than elect to replace it with a conventional system, consider other options such as air source heat pumps. As uptake increases, the cost of such systems is reducing and government grants are available to help. Solar panels are another good long term investment.

There are many ways we can help to improve our village environment and a number of things are planned for the future:

Talks. It always helps to hear from the experts and a talk was planned at the village hall prior to lockdown. We'll endeavour to run this event once restrictions ease.

Recycling Event. As part of a wider event covering climate and environmental issues.

Wildflowers. A wildflower meadow is to be planted in Meadowview.

Tree Planting. SMPC has taken delivery of 105 trees from the Woodland Trust and we intend to plant these in strategic locations around the village in the very near future. We'll undoubtedly need some help so stay tuned!

Bee Bombs. The children from Little Swans have already helped us by planting 'bee bombs' to encourage insects and improve biodiversity. No doubt there will be more.

Your input and support is vital. Remember, this is your village!

(<https://www.swantonmorleypc.info/climate-action>)

**Ian Cawdron
Councillor**



Village Paths and Byways



Swanton Morley has an extensive range of paths that are open to the public - for more information see:

www.swantonmorleypc.info/villagewalks

A large proportion of these are permissive paths which were due to close last year but have remained open thanks to an agreement being made between the Parish Council and landowner, Mr James Keith. There was a lot of support within the village for keeping them open and they appear to be well used and have been of great benefit in these difficult times. Thankyou to the vast majority of walkers and dogwalkers who use these paths considerably and help keep them clean and tidy.

**Stephen Westbury
Councillor**





S.M.A.R.T.

Swanton Morley Allotment & Recreational Trust

With the anticipation of the new growing season ahead, things started off fairly well on the allotments. The weather was kind at the end of the winter which allowed the preparation to start a little earlier and March brought with it very mild weather running into the spring. With the planting well under way, it was a positive start to the season. A late frost in May did cause a few issues but a fairly good summer all round meant that we all had some very good crops. As you can imagine there are a huge variety of fruit and vegetables grown on our allotments, far too many to mention. With the growing year now coming to a close, on reflection, it's been fairly normal from a gardener and allotment holder's point of view - the normal challenges of the odd bug problem, too much



rain, not enough rain, too windy, just the British weather in general to be honest.

The one challenge that no one envisaged in 2020 was Covid 19 and its impact on everyone. Initially with the first lockdown in March, there were a few concerns about not being able to work on our allotments, however, after some clarity from the Government, we were given the green light to visit our allotments as long as social distancing was adhered to. I think the benefits of fresh air, exercise and mental

wellbeing were key elements in the decision making. Other challenges included lack of access to garden centres to purchase goods and obtaining seeds to grow, this was due to a general increase in demand for seed in the UK.

There is something very satisfying in being able to grow your own fruit and vegetables, so if you fancy having a go yourself in 2021 or would like a tour of Swanton Morley Allotments to help you decide, please contact Kelly Picard our Parish Clerk for more details.



Merry Christmas Everyone!



David Turner
Councillor



Swanton Morley Allotments



★ **Full and half plots available now** ★

- Only £68 (£34 for half plots) per annum including water
- Free manure
- Community atmosphere
- Free secure storage for tools
- Annual Barbeque

You could be eating home grown produce this year....

Contact the Parish Council Office for more information:

01362 637166 admin@swantonmorley.org

Burial Ground and Churchyard

One of the responsibilities of the Parish Council is the maintenance of the burial ground and the churchyard. Each month a visual inspection is made of both areas and a report is presented to parish councillors. The report includes such items as tidiness, accessibility, integrity of perimeter fences, walls or hedges, and also the soundness of gravestones.

Contractors are commissioned by the Parish Council to cut the grass, hedges and make any necessary repairs to fences. In the churchyard there are some plant conservation areas that contain wild flowers of interest and for this reason not all the vegetation is cut back.

During 2020 there have been repairs made to the fences in the churchyard and strong winds, of which there have been plenty this year, have caused some damage to the trees in the burial ground. Tree surgeons have undertaken a survey to ascertain which trees are unsafe and should be removed. A report was then presented to Councillors on the state of the burial ground with options for the future. Parish Councillors are now considering some alterations to the current layout of the burial ground once some of the trees have been removed to prepare for the next twenty to sixty years, ensuring that forthcoming generations have a place of remembrance in the village.

Our chairman was able to successfully obtain £10,000 for the burial ground from Breckland Council as part of the Covid-19 business rate grant scheme. These most welcome funds will help to pay for the work required there.

Geoffrey Curran
Councillor



Community Speed Watch Update.

Over the past few years, with the changing road networks around the County and the part completion of the Norwich Northern Distributor Road, it seems to have encouraged more traffic to find alternative routes to get back to the A47. One of them is through our village. This has increased the volume of traffic and had an impact on the speed that cars are travelling into and through the village, not helped by 60mph roads joining the village at both ends, reducing to a 30mph road through the village itself.

The Parish Council have issues for some time began the process of Speed Watch Scheme" the Norfolk Police Safety begin the process in



been looking at these and back in August 2019 putting a "Community together. We contacted Camera Partnership to September 2019.

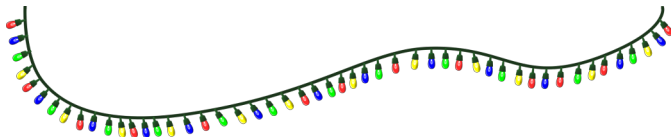
Firstly we had to get a team of volunteers together. This was managed via social media and the Mardler, so thank you to the eight volunteers so far. All eight had to then complete a DBS form (Disclosure & Barring Service) and return it to the Police to be approved, - this has also been completed.

We were meant to have a Risk Assessment carried out on the 12th November 2020 by a member of Norfolk Police but this was cancelled due to the current Covid situation. We were informed at that point that all training for Speed Watch volunteers is postponed until further notice.

So, at this moment in time we can only wait for the restrictions to be lifted and hopefully begin the scheme in the New Year, however if you're interested in joining as a volunteer and have not already put your name forward, please contact the Parish Clerk.

David Turner
Councillor

For further information about how the Parish Council are tackling the ongoing issue of speeding in Swanton Morley please see the news page of the website: www.swantonmorley.info/news as well as regular updates in the Link Up magazine.



Playgrounds

We are very fortunate in Swanton Morley to have several areas providing space and equipment for families to enjoy and this year more than most they have provided a very welcome change of scene for those with few options to entertain their children. We had to abide by Government directives to close during the first lockdown but were pleased that wasn't necessary in 'round two'.



Gooseberry Hill play park has a new piece of equipment - with a nod to the times in which it was installed on the mast! And groundwork has been carried out to improve the worn areas around the existing equipment. The basketball hoop at the village hall was very kindly refurbished by a villager in the

summer and it has been getting good use, along with the gym equipment and table tennis table also located there. All of our equipment - on the village green, at Gooseberry Hill and at the village hall - passed its annual safety inspection and we continue to monitor both the equipment and the areas in which it is installed on a regular basis with reports made monthly to the Parish Council.

With Christmas nearly here, I am sure the playgrounds will get plenty of use - please stay safe and continue to follow the COVID guidelines. The new play boat has proved very popular so, what other piece of equipment would you playground people like to see? Just drop your wish into an email to our Parish Clerk and we will see what we can do in the future. **John Keen - Councillor**

It wasn't all bad news in 2020:



The newly installed flag pole allowed us to mark several



occasions throughout the year and the bike shelter funded by a National Lottery awards for all grant was installed at the village hall. Watch out for more flag changes in the months to come....



A full house...

In 2020, we saw the Parish Council reach its full capacity of 9 members once again with the welcome co-option of Councillor Jim Venworth:



"I have only been a member of the Parish Council for a few months, having been co-opted to fill a vacancy, so I haven't got too much to tell you. Just that, like my colleagues, I hope to be able to improve local services and represent the community.

What is important is that parishioners talk to us about issues that affect them. We can't always promise to find a solution, but we will listen. That's why in 2021, when we are able to meet properly again, I would like to see a few more of you at our monthly meetings in the village hall.

Alternatively, we are always available to look at issues that are affecting you by contacting any of us personally.

However old you are, this has been a dreadful year and one which we shall all be glad to see the back of, but amongst all this horror there have been some amazing acts of kindness which have resulted in lifetime friendships. We now have our own group of volunteers set up to help members of the community with tasks they are unable to do on their own. In short, I believe that there have been many positives to take away from this year's experience.

Let us hope that 2021 will be a better year for us all and I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone in Swanton Morley a safe festive period."

Jim Venworth
Councillor

The Big Quiz - entry rules

Answers to be submitted to: **admin@swantonmorley.org** or on paper to Parish Council, Swanton Morley Village Hall, Manns Lane, Swanton Morley NR20 9NP - please mark clearly 'The Big Quiz Entry' and supply contact details

by 31st January 2021

Entrants can be individuals or households/families

The winner(s) will be contacted directly and announced via social media, our website and in the next edition of the Mardler. A small prize will be awarded.

Good Luck!