



Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

April 2019



Easter is one of the major Christian festivals of the year. It is full of customs, folklore and traditional food. However, Easter has its beginnings long before the arrival of Christianity. Many theologians believe Easter is named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess of the dawn and spring - Eostre.

In Britain, Easter occurs at a different time each year. It is observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring. This means that the festival can occur on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Not only is Easter the end of the winter it is also the end of Lent, traditionally a time of fasting in the Christian calendar.



Easter eggs are a very old tradition going to a time before Christianity and eggs are a symbol of spring and new life. Exchanging and eating Easter eggs is a popular custom in many countries. In the UK, before they were replaced by chocolate, Easter eggs were actually real eggs, hard-boiled and often dyed in various bright bold colours and patterns to represent spring-time and light. Sadly, nowadays, if you gave a child in Britain a hard-boiled egg on Easter Sunday, you would probably end up wearing it!

An older more traditional game is one in which real eggs are rolled against one another or down a hill. The owner of the egg that stayed uncracked the longest won. Even today in the north of England, for example Preston in Lancashire, they still carry out the custom of egg rolling. Hard boiled eggs are rolled down slopes to see whose egg goes furthest. In other places another game is played. You hold an egg in the palm of the hand and bang against your opponent's egg. The loser is the one whose egg breaks first.

Main Story (continued)

Rabbits, due to their fecund nature, have always been a symbol of fertility. The Easter bunny, however, may actually be an Easter hare. The hare was allegedly a companion of the ancient goddess, Eostre. Strangely the bunny as an Easter symbol seems to have its origins in Germany, where it was first mentioned in German writings in the 16th Century. The first edible Easter bunnies appeared in Germany during the early 1800s, made of pastry and sugar.



In Cheshire there was a custom that children go round the village and beg for eggs for their Easter dinner; they accompanied it by a short song addressed to the farmer's wife, asking "an egg, bacon, cheese, or an apple, or any good thing that will make us merry," ending with "And I pray you, good dame, an Easter egg."

Hot cross buns, now eaten throughout the Easter season, were first baked in England to be served on Good Friday. These small, lightly sweet yeast buns contain raisins or currants and sometimes chopped candied fruit. Before baking, a cross is slashed in the top of the bun. After baking, a confectioners' sugar icing is used to fill the cross.



An old rhyme was often sung by children awaiting their sugary treat:

"Hot cross buns, hot cross buns, one a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns.	If you do not like them, give them to your sons, one a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns."
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Easter was once a traditional day for getting married, that's may be why people often dress up for Easter. Women would make and wear special Easter bonnets decorated with flowers and ribbons. Even today in Battersea in London there is a special Easter Parade where hand-made bonnets are shown off.



However you like to celebrate Easter, please remember an Easter Egg is not for life, it needs to be shared always happy to help with this!

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"And many thought it was a sacred sign, And some called it the resurrection flower; And I, a pagan, worshiped at its shrine, Yielding my heart unto its perfumed power" - Claude McKay, a Jamaican-American writer, in his poem about the Easter lily called "Easter Flower"

Parish News

Another Local Artist

In our November 2018 edition we showcased the photography of local artist Alison Hamlin-Hughes, whose work is still available for purchase from the Church Hall. Another of our local artists, Geraldine Byrne brings a flourish of eastern magic to Marston with her beautiful take on Mandala art. This art form originated in Tibet, produced by Tibetan monks to help focus and centre their minds and their souls - a tool for making an ordered mind out of discord. Geraldine's work follows these traditions but she produces it on modern, everyday articles like bottles, mirrors, coasters and necklaces. Geraldine is using her crafts in helping her recovery from complex PTSD. Some of her work, displayed on the back page, can be seen and purchased from her narrow boat, "My ol' Bailey", on permanent moorings alongside The Lion Salt Works. She would be delighted to take your "special item", such as that celebratory bottle of bubbly and to transform it into a truly lovely piece of art.

Contact a councillor or Geraldine on 07549416824 or [www.facebook.com/ger's world of dots and knots](http://www.facebook.com/ger's%20world%20of%20dots%20and%20knots).

Are there any other budding local artists out there? We would love to showcase your work. Please get in touch!

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The Great British Clean Up on Sunday 7th April.

Armed with hi-vis jackets, gloves, litter pickers and plenty of rubbish bags Marston Parish Councillors aim to clear some of the streets in the village of litter and debris. Litter is a growing problem everywhere and as the saying goes "every little helps" so.....Why not organise your own street litter pick?

Or pick up the litter immediately outside your own home.

Or select a small area of community space and clear the litter from that?

BUT PLEASE ALWAYS WORK CAREFULLY AND SAFELY with a mind to vehicles and an awareness of any unpleasant items that might be lurking in the grass.



The Great British Clean Up is organised by the Keep Britain Tidy campaign and as a group, for Health and Safety reasons, we can only litter pick on roads with a 40mph or less speed limit. Therefore we will start at the Ollershaw Lane "village welcome" sign and work our way up the length of Ollershaw Lane terminating at Four Lanes garage.

Watch out for us!

Parish News and Issues

Here we summarise news and issues within our community. Please get in touch with feedback or comments and other issues to include.

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The Marbury Park /Forge Brook Bridge. We are now joining forces with Great Budworth and Wincham Parish Council to move forward on trying to get the bridge reinstated

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Update on Planning Application for the “Tour and Store” caravan storage site - 18/04713/FUL – Temporary change of use from scrap metal yard to caravan and general storage.

We are waiting for this application to be called into the Planning Committee. We understand that this can take some considerable time.

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The Salt Barge Walks

Marston Parish residents and friends regularly walk from The Salt Barge on alternative Wednesdays. All non-residents and pub visitors are welcomed to join our friendly group. We meet in the car park at 10.30am for varied walks of between 3.5 and 5 miles around Neumann’s and Ashton’s Flashes, the Northwich Woodlands, Marbury Park and the Trent and Mersey canal towpath. We walk with lots of chat and laughter and afterwards meet in the pub for tea, sandwiches (or beer) and more chats. Our Wednesday schedule for 2019 is:

April 10 th and 24 th May: 8 th and 22 nd June: 5 th and 19 th July: 3 rd , 17 th and 31 st August :14 th and 28 th	September: 11 th and 25 th October: 9 th and 23 rd November: 6 th and 20 th December: 4 th and 18 th
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Wizard Walks

Longer walks will be held on the first Thursday of the month. Meeting at 10am on the car park; we will either set off from there or car share to another location. The first one is Thursday 4th April. 10am from the carpark. We will be walking to Great Budworth and through Comberbach to Marbury Park, around 6 miles. This year’s schedule for our longer Wizard walks is:

4th April, 2nd May, 6th June, 4th July, 1st August, 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November, 5th December

For more info contact any of the Parish Councillors or the bar staff at the pub.

Summary Minutes of Marston Parish Council Meeting 13th March 2019

Planting of Commemorative Tree at Lion Salt Works & Coronation Building

Councillors have met with Kate Harland from The Lion Salt Works Museum and discussed these points. It was felt that due to the archaeological status of the grounds the planting of an oak tree may not be possible. Leaving the Coronation Building site as it currently is was deemed unsuitable by the council as it could just become a rubbish pit. Cllr Davies is to produce plans for both points and present to Kate Harland.

Heating in the Church Hall

The heating in the church hall is no longer satisfactory especially as two heaters are broken. The council plans to put in a full central heating system and is in the process of obtaining quotes.

Developments over planning applications on land behind Ollershaw Lane & Cross Street

These applications are still being processed. No officers have yet been assigned due to staff shortages and the council have no further news.

Cheshire West and Chester Council Offices

The main CWAC offices are to be moved from Chester to Ellesmere Port.

Dangerous Buildings

The state of the wall and barns at the farm on the junction of Marston Lane and Dark Lane was discussed. Cllr's felt that the wall was becoming unstable and dangerous to passers-by. Clerk is to contact the council to ascertain whether anything can be done.

Litter and fly tipping

As part of the Big Spring Clean initiative your council will be litter picking on Sunday 7th April 2019 along Ollershaw Lane.

Date of the next meeting:

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is 10th April 2019

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LOCAL ELECTIONS

Please note these will held on 2nd May.

MARBURY PARK,
CHESHIRE 
**ACOUSTIC
MUSIC & ALE
WEEKEND**

AUGUST 23RD
BANK HOLIDAY TO 26TH

— **FREE EVENT** —

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Parish News

Mystery picture In MM's March edition is on the left below. It's a view, northwards, from the footbridge approaching Neumann's Flash, from Ollershaw Lane showing disused pipework.

This month's mystery photo is below right.



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Another reminder for bookworms regarding the Mobile Library service.

Did you know the the Mobile Library stops at Marston?

At the main gates of the Tingdene Park /Ashwood Homes, in Chapel Street, Wincham. Visits every 3 weeks on Tuesdays. giving you plenty of time to finish those books! You can take out a book or return one with your library card. You don't have to live on the park to use this service but you do need to be member of Northwich Library.

9th April, 30th April, 21st May, 11th June.

Times: 14.50 until 15.10pm

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Report that Pothole!

CWAC have launched an online service where you can report Highways and Streetcare issues using the following link.

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/report-it.aspx

If this is too much of a "mouthful" please contact any of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk.

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We reluctantly accepted the resignation of Rachel Bate as Parish Councillor. We thank her for her Parish work and extend our best wishes

Parish Quiz No.6

Here is Quiz no. 6. All the following questions are based on events or facts about April and Easter

Answers to March's quiz are at the bottom of the page.

No.	Question	Answer
1	Which flower is considered the flower for April?	
2	What day precedes Ash Wednesday?	
3	What happened to Jesus on Easter Sunday?	
4	What does the word April mean?	
5	What was the name of the murderer released instead of Jesus by Pontius Pilate?	
6	Who wrote 'Oh to be in England now that April's there'?	
7	Easter Island belongs to which South American country?	
8	On the first of April Apple Computers was founded in California. In what year?	
9	Name the great Hollywood actor, born in April 1916, and who starred in "To Kill a Mockingbird".	
10	Which famous cartoon character celebrates a birthday on the 17th of April?	

Answers to March's Quiz, no. 5:

1. This ancient festival is one of Spring washing or cleaning and possibly of Sabine origin	6. Hampton Court Palace
2. Amethyst	7. New Year's Day in Iran
3. Pisces	8. The tea party scene in Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland".
4. Mars. Roman god of war.	9. Patty Hearst
5. Julius Caesar	10. 1969

Parish News and Events

Did you miss our Hot Pot Lunch???

One of our regular Hot Pot Lunches was held at the Church Hall on Sunday 24th March. Friends and residents enjoyed hotpots, stews, casseroles and cottage pies, followed by trifles, cakes and scones. Entertainment was from our local musicians Terry, Jayne and Iain. It was great afternoon, meeting old friends and new.



There will be similar events this summer so keep an eye out.

Our Tuesday Coffee Mornings – 10 am - noon at the Church Hall

It's not just about tea, coffee, crumpets toast and toasted tea cakes you can join in our very informal quiz led by local quizmaster, Duncan Blain. No prizes, just silly answers, much laughter and banter among our growing group of friends. Do you know how many Olympic medals were won by Mark Spitz? Who sang "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" and to whom it was sung? What were Batman and Robin's real names? Whose autobiography was called "The Moon's a Balloon". Come along and find out.

Easy Easter Biscuits recipe

- 300g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- 150g white caster sugar
- 150g slightly salted butter, chopped
- 1 large egg
- 2 tsp vanilla extract or vanilla bean paste



Put flour, sugar and butter in a bowl.
Rub until resembles wet sand
Beat the egg with the vanilla
Add to the bowl
Knead the dough together
Roll out and cut into desired shapes
Place on a greased baking tray
Bake for 12 – 15mins in a pre-heated oven 180°C Gas 4
If you wish, get the kids to decorate with coloured icing and sprinkles

Local Events

Acoustic Music Events at The Salt Barge

Many of you will have enjoyed the **regular Friday evening live music** at The Salt Barge featuring good quality acoustic bands and artists. Come and enjoy it and support Nick the landlord's fine efforts to enliven our community. Music starts at 9pm which gives you time to sample one of his pies! (Food served until 8pm). See what's on each week by going to the Facebook page, The Salt Barge.

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The Salt Works Sessions – Not to be missed!

- Rod Clements (Lindisfarne) & Ian Thomson Saturday 11th May
 - Merry Hell (acoustic) – Friday 20th September
- Tickets obtained from: lswsessions@gmail.com or ring 07796 175437.
- =====

Some of the main events that will be taking place later this year.

The Lion Salt Works

- Live and Local 125th – 27th May
Next month so put it in your diary!!!
- Transport Festival.....8th – 9th June
- Live and Local 217th – 18th August

At The Salt Barge

- Beer, Music & Pie Festival.....26th – 28th July
- Acoustic Music every Friday from 9pm

Nearby

- Family Fun Weekend at The Stanley Arms..... 20th – 22nd April
 - Acoustic Music & Ale Weekend in Marbury Park ...23rd-26th August
- This is the 2nd Year for this not to be missed weekend.
Camping available but pitches are going fast.
- =====



I watched a blackbird on a budding sycamore
One Easter Day, when sap was stirring twigs to the core;
I saw his tongue, and crocus-coloured bill
Parting and closing as he turned his thrill;
Thomas Hardy

Reflections #13



Absolutely nothing is a greater testament to spring than the arrival of the daffodil! As the first green tips prise themselves from the iron-hard soil to explode into a joyous sunburst of yellow so we find ourselves suddenly awakened; the cold dark days of winter wane and the warm days of spring appear.

As a general rule I don't bring cut flowers into my house, preferring to see them out of doors where they last much longer. Daffodils are the exception and from their first £1 a bunch appearance in the supermarkets I buy them. The trumpet shaped flowers on slender stalks, vibrant and bright and happy, laugh their presence in my rooms. I love them!

The sight of full-throated daffs, trumpeters in gold, bring a sense of vitality, energy and radiance and therefore it's not surprising that Marie Curie chose the daffodil as their emblem; they recognise it is as a positive and life-affirming image, and the resilience of the flower brings both reassurance and comfort.

Narcissus, the botanic name for the group of jonquils, narcissi and paperwhites may be derived from Greek mythology. The beautiful boy, Narcissus was enamoured with his own reflection in a pool and when he died his body metamorphosed into a group of flowering daffodils. Some myths claim that the daffodil was used to calm his self-obsession. And, in herbalist lore, the bulb was ground to produce a powerful narcotic administered to help people relax after a stressful experience. Today we know that the pretty daff produces a powerful compound and the bulbs are grown in vast numbers, processed for the chemical galantamine that aids in the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease.

Daffs in our culture are long associated with springtime and by extension Easter once again representing rebirth and new beginnings. However, across the world, daffodils are celebrated and loved. It is the official symbol of the Chinese New Year, bringing good luck and positivity. In France it is a sign of hope, and not only is it the national flower of Wales its folklore dictates whoever finds the first flower in bloom will be blessed with more gold than silver in the forthcoming year. Ancient Arabia used the flower as an aphrodisiac and a cure for baldness (although I'm not sure you make the tincture to rub onto the pate or to swallow), and in modern Syria, Iran and Turkey it is thought to bring

Reflections #13 (continued) & Bits 'n' bobs

youthfulness and honesty. Judaism sees the common daffodil as a symbol of fertility and the “Rose of Sharon” of the Old Testament is in fact a daff. Marston too celebrates the daffodil. From early March to this time of the year, driving into the Ollershaw Lane part of the village, the road is lined with bright yellow nodding flowers – its own..... “host of dancing daffodils”.



Green Fingers

Jobs in the Garden this month ...

Plant out your potatoes into trenches or plant a few earlies into big pots for a quicker crop.

Start growing tomatoes, aubergines, courgettes and winter squashes in pots on the window sill or in a greenhouse

Start cutting your lawn and re-seed bare patches. You will soon have it looking bright and green again

Task for this month...

There are few greater harvests than cut flowers, few more luxurious returns for a bit of digging, weeding and sowing, than vases of flowers all summer long. Hardy annuals are particularly dependable and abundant and should be the core of your patch. They are the simplest to grow by sowing directly into the ground. A word of warning though; April's weather is wildly unpredictable so hold off if the weather or soil is too cold. Pre-warm the soil by covering with black or clear plastic, or cover your newly sown rows with cloches.

Some of the best hardy annuals to try are; calendula, cornflower, larkspur and nigella. These will give you a variety of colour and shape with a mix of showy performers and background fillers. Work your soil until it is fine and crumbly, make a drill and crumble some fresh compost along it, then finely sow the seeds along the drill; cover, water and label.

Useful Contacts

CWAC Councillors

Lynn Gibbon 01606 784599

lyn.Gibbon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Norman Wright 01606 74788

norman.wright@chesterwestandchester.gov.uk

Don Hammond 01606 891397

don.hammond@chesterwestndchester.gov.uk

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Mon-Fri 81m-7pm and Sat 91m-12.30pm

Online at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

General enquiries 0300 1238123

Highways 0300 1237036

Street Scene 0300 1237026

PCSO Diana Wiggine 20322 Diana Wiggins@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Dial 101 in a non-emergency and 999 in an emergency

Ester McVey – your local MP Telephone: 01625 529922

Marston Parish Council cannot be held responsible for any errors, misprints or opinions stated in this publication. The views expressed by the contributors are their own and not necessarily the views of the editor .

Your Contributions and ideas are welcomed!

We are always grateful for ideas and articles from any of our readers . Just send them through to the editor or any one of the councillors or even give us a ring.

Further information on Parish matters can be found on marstonparishcouncil.co.uk

Back copies of the **Marston Murmurs newsletters** are also on this website.

For Facebook users see: **Facebook/Marstonparishcouncil. Also Facebook/All about Marston and surrounding areas**

Copies of this newsletter can be obtained from The Salt Barge, The Lion Salt Works or the Church Hall. Those who wish an electronic copy email or ring the editor.

Need a bigger font??Just ring, text or email Warren (email address or contact number on page 19).

We will then pop one round to your home or send it electronically.

Information and Adverts

Advertising Why not support your community newsletter by advertising your business or services. Half page advert per edition is £12 and full page advert per edition is £19. Business card size is £6 per edition

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01606 46341

0776 142941



The Crusty Cob Café in Chapel St., Wincham now offers additional services to supplement our food menu. You can now **pre-order your newspaper for collection** and also **buy essential household items** such as bread, milk, eggs, biscuits, beans, etc. We hope to widen this selection in the future.

Eat-in or take-away food on offer. We cater for functions or meetings with buffet food and sandwich platters also available.

Our menu includes: breakfast, hot & cold sandwiches, omelettes, burgers, salad boxes, jacket potatoes and hot & cold drinks.

Opening times: Mon-Fri: 8am – 2pm, Sat: 8.30am – 12noon

Telephone orders welcomed

Chapel Street, Wincham, CW9 6DA

Tel. 07555 517659

See us on FaceBook – Crusty Cob

Nick and Sarah –Jayne Welcome you to The Salt Barge



A local, community pub

The Salt Barge is a traditional country pub located in rural Marston, opposite The Lion Salt Works Museum and the Trent and Mersey Canal. We have a new menu featuring a wide range of

home-made pies along with traditional dishes like sausages and mash and fish and chips; all freshly prepared in our kitchen.

A range of excellent local cask ales are available.

Watch Sky or BT TV across 5 screens or have a quiet meal in our dining areas.

Have a warming meal after enjoying a walk along the local Trent & Mersey Canal or the beautiful Ashton & Neumann's Flashes or after your visit to the splendid Lion Salt Works Museum.

Our new opening hours are:

Monday – Thursday: 12noon until 11pm

Friday & Saturday: 12 noon until 12 midnight

Sunday: 12 noon until 10.30pm

Food served until 8pm



Bookings now being taken for Easter.

**Advanced notice: Watch out for the Beer, Music and pie
Festival on 26th-28th July at The Salt Barge**

Enquiries & Reservations: 01606 212525

Ollershaw Lane, Marston, Northwich CW9 6ES

www.thesaltbarge.com

What's on at The Lion Salt Works



Museum Opening Times:

Museum opens Tuesday – Sunday 10.30am-5pm.

Play area & butterfly garden open daily 9am-5.20pm.

Open all Bank Holiday Mondays.

Ollershaw Lane Marston CW9 6ES

T: 01606 275040

E: museumenquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

W: www.lionsaltworks.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk

- **Sprouting Spring**- 2 April - 3 April. 10.30am-12.30pm & 2-4pm, drop-in. Spring is here, and we have lots of fun activities linked to the nature and wildlife around Lion Salt Works. Come and join us as we celebrate the start of spring. Cost £2
- **Wartime Industry and Working Women in Cheshire, 1914-1950** - until 27 May Curated by Joseph Roberts, this exhibition explores Cheshire's important contribution to the war effort, the stories of the valiant women who kept the county (and country) going during the conflicts, and their continued contribution to local industry in the aftermath of war and beyond.
- **Run Away to the Circus** - 9 April - 10 April, 10.30am-12.30pm & 2-4pm, drop-in. To celebrate the release of Dumbo, come and take part in some crafts all about circus fun!
- **The Salt Works Sessions: Rod Clements & Ian Thomson**
11 May @ 7.30pm - 10.30pm Tickets: £12.50
Founder member of folk-rock legend Lindisfarne, Rod Clements wrote their first chart hit "Meet Me On The Corner", which became an instant classic. Rod has also pursued solo projects and collaborations with other eminent musicians and songwriters, including Raph McTell, Bert Jansch, Michael Chapman and Thea Gilmore. In recent years, Rod has emerged as a solo artist and respected slide guitar player, and he'll be joined tonight by Ian Thomson on double bass to play the classic songs Rod has written over the decades for Lindisfarne and many others.
To book email lswsessions@gmail.com or ring 07796 175437.

More Information on The Lion Salt Works website

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/marstonparish

Marston Parish Council Surgeries

Church Hall: 12noon -12.30pm
9 Apr, 7 May, 11 June, 9 July, 10 Sept, 8 Oct, 12 Nov, 10 Dec
Salt Barge: 6.30pm – 7pm
8 Apr, 6 May, 10 June, 8 July, 9 Sept, 7 Oct, 11 Nov, 9 Dec

Church Hall Bookings: only £8.50 per hour

Please ring Ange on 0771 6565038

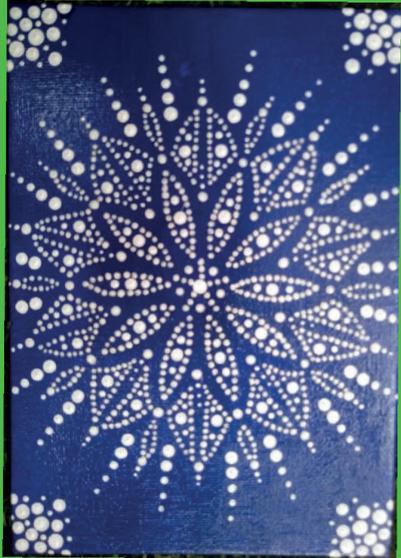
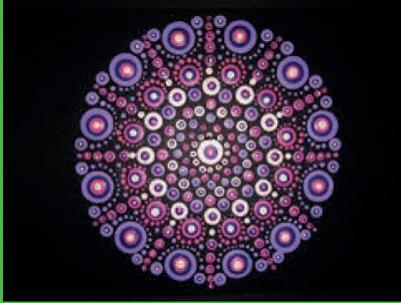
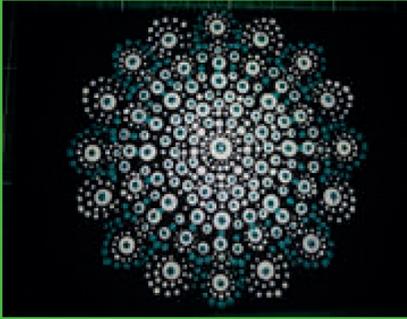
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**Some examples of Geraldine Byrne's work.
See the article on page 3**