|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Marston Murmurs** |
| **The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council April 21** | |

'April Showers Bring May Flowers'

April cold with dripping rain,

Willows and Lilacs bring again

The whistle of returning birds

And trumpet lowing of the herds

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82)

12th April brings step two of the Covid Lockdown. This will allow non-essential retail, personal care premises, hairdressers and nail salons, libraries, gyms, zoo's and theme parks to open. Pubs and restaurants can open outdoors with wider social distancing rules, continuing the rule of six or two households being able to mix. A single household can stay in a cottage or holiday let and children’s activities can recommence.

This is a big step towards removing restrictions and life returning to normal.

**St Georges day 23rd April**

As the nation celebrates St George’s Day, here are 10 things you might not know about England’s patron saint.

St George’s Day takes place on 23 April, which is traditionally accepted as being the date of his death in AD 303.

St George was beheaded for resigning his military post and protesting against his pagan leader; the Emperor Diocletian (245-313 AD), who led Rome’s persecution of Christians.

The Emperor’s wife was so inspired by St George’s bravery and loyalty to his religion, that she too became a Christian and was subsequently executed for her faith.

Before the cult of St George was brought back from the Crusades, the top choice for England’s patron saint was Edmund the Martyr, one of the Whuffings, East Anglia’s ruling family. Edmund is also the patron saint of pandemics, torture victims, and wolves.

St George is the Patron Saint of Scouting and on the Sunday nearest to 23rd April scouts and guides throughout England parade through the streets.

His emblem, a red cross on a white background, was adopted by Richard The Lionheart and brought to England in the 12th century, when the king’s soldiers would wear it on their tunics to avoid confusion in battle.

Aside from England, other countries that celebrate St George’s Day include Canada, Croatia, Portugal, Cyprus, Greece, Georgia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Republic of Macedonia.

Though celebrations are somewhat muted in modern times, Englishmen can still be seen to mark St George’s Day with quintessentially British traditions, such as Morris Dancing, eating fish and chips or watching a Punch and Judy puppet show.

The most famous legend of St George is of him slaying a dragon, with the dragon commonly used to represent the Devil in the Middle Ages. The slaying of the dragon by St George was first credited to him in the 12th century, long after his death and it is therefore likely that the many stories connected with St George’s name are fictitious.

The date of 23rd April was also the date of the death of the English playwright William Shakespeare. UNESCO marked this historic date by declaring it the International Day of the Book and it is also traditionally when Shakespeare’s birthday is celebrated.

|  |
| --- |
| **Parish News** |

**Reopening of Church Hall**

In line with the easing of lockdown after 12th April, we will be hoping to start up coffee mornings again sometime in May, fingers crossed, please Boris. The format will be according to government guidelines; rule of six, social distancing, waited on table service etc… and will be for only an hour or so with either no quiz or a shortened (10 questions or so) quiz.

Of course our numbers will be limited, but we hope to welcome as many of you as possible. If you wish to get in touch about this or any other use of the hall, please email [info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk) or talk to one of our councillors.

We have already had a resident contact us with the idea of a plant swap in May, as the majority of the green fingered ones amongst us, always grow too many and hate to throw plants and seedlings away. You can email me at [hoasisgarden@gmail.com](mailto:hoasisgarden@gmail.com) or if you haven’t got access to a computer please put a note through my door at 7 Cross Street (Amanda).

**CW&C Report IT app**

Report any issues with pot holes, street lamps, bus stops, grass verges etc… directly with CW&C using either their online form via the website at: https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/home.aspx

or download the app from: https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it-app.aspx where there is a link to google play or the app store (or just go directly to google play or the app store and enter ‘Cheshire West and Chester’). The app allows you to exactly pin point the problem with a ‘pin drop’, so make sure you take your mobile out with you when out and about and report any issues that you find.

**Parish Councillor Vacancy**

Just to remind you we are still looking to fill our last parish councillor vacancy. If you wish to express your interest or learn a little more about the role then please email our clerk, Caroline, at [clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk).

**Please DO NOT feed the Animals**

There have been reports in the press that many farm animals and horses have been killed by the well-meaning actions of people feeding inappropriate food stuffs to them. It is tempting to be kind and offer food stuff; grass clippings or garden clippings to animals but many of these are harmful to livestock. Particularly now, around lambing time, do not throw items into the fields and always keep dogs on a lead around livestock.

**Breaking of Lockdown Rules & Littering**

There have been gatherings of young people on the banks of Budworth Mere which is not only currently against Covid restrictions but has also resulted in littering and destruction of property. We are lucky to have access to beautiful surroundings and it is sad when people do not respect that. Please do not break lockdown restrictions and take your litter home with you and dispose of it correctly.

|  |
| --- |
| Summary Minutes of Marston Parish  Council Meeting of 10th March 2021 |

Discussions about CW&C’s response to the recent flooding took place, highlighting plans to provide equipment to the parish council to help with a more timely and cohesive response to future events. Road Closed signs, bollards and sandbags will be provided to help manage any future flooding and CW&C will be instigating a regular timetable of road sweeping, ditch and drain clearing.

The internal church hall walls have now been painted in a fresh and calming sage green, thank you to those residents who contributed to this cost. We are now planning to add new batons to the ceiling, patching areas where new ceiling lights were added a couple of years ago and it will then be painted.

|  |
| --- |
| Bits ‘n’ Bobs |

**Gardening Jobs**

* 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 windowsill or in a greenhouse
* Start cutting your lawn and re-seed bare patches. You will soon have it looking bright and green again

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.

With Easter around the corner, here is a simple **carrot cake** recipe to make before the Easter Bunny eats all the carrots!

Ingredients  
Serves: 12 (unless you like a large slice like us)

Cream cheese icing

25g cream cheese

110g margarine, softened

450g icing sugar

120g chopped walnuts

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

250g self-raising flour

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

400g caster sugar

350ml vegetable oil

4 eggs

350g grated carrots

120g chopped walnuts

## Method Preheat the oven to 180 C / Gas 4. Grease two 23cm round cake tins.

1. In a medium bowl, stir together the flour, cinnamon and sugar. Add the oil and eggs, mix until blended, then stir in the carrots and nuts. Divide the cake mixture evenly between the two prepared tins
2. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes in the preheated oven.

A skewer inserted into the cake should come out clean.

Cool cakes on wire racks before removing from tins

1. To make the icing: In a medium bowl, cream together the butter and cream cheese, add the sugar and cream well. Stir in the nuts and vanilla. Use to fill and ice the cooled cake layers.

#### Tips

You can easily halve the amount of sugar to 200g for a less sweet cake.

|  |
| --- |
| General Knowledge Quiz |

1) Which is the only vowel not used as the first letter in a US State?

2) What does IPA stand for?

3) Who won I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! in 2020?

4) Who does the voiceover on Love Island?

5) Finish the next line to this lyric (song is Believe by Cher): "It's so sad that you're leaving, It takes time to believe it, But after all is said and done..."

6) What is Postman Pat's surname?

7) What is a group of giraffes known as?

8) How many Oscars has Leonardo DiCaprio won?

9) Which social media app did Donald Trump try to block in the US this year?

10) What name is given to small sausages wrapped in bacon?

11) Which country has the most islands in the world?

12) Where was the first modern Olympic Games held (in 1896)?

13) Who said this on TV in 2020? "I still need a bit of milk, full fat, which I've warmed in the 'meecrowarvay'."

14) Who discovered penicillin?

15) What type of alcohol is Russia famous for?

16) Which continent is the largest in terms of land mass?

17) Who won the football World Cup in 1966?

18) What year was Netflix founded?

19) What was Disney’s first feature film?

20) Which Avenger is the only one who could calm down the Hulk?

21) What is the only domesticated animal NOT mentioned in the Bible?

22) In which ocean is the Bermuda Triangle located?

23) In Only Fools and Horses, what does Trigger always call Rodney?

24) In which US state was Barack Obama born?

25) Which city do The Beatles come from?

26) In 2020's I'm A Celebrity... whose happy place was Turf Moor?

27) Which country won the 2005 Elephant Polo world championship?

28) Who invented the iconic Little Black Dress?

29) What is the main ingredient in hummus?

30) Which famous American pop band was originally called Kara’s Flowers?

Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

**COVID-19 Outbreak Board** meetings are still being held regularly to monitor the current situation. The general public can listen in and ask questions (once registered). Go to: http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=1107 to register or look at meeting minutes/agendas and statistics.

**Book of Reflection**

The book of reflection is still available to be read or added to.

Go to:

https://www.theonlinebookcompany.com/OnlineBooks/CheshireWestandChesterCouncil/Content/Filler

Anyone without internet access who wishes to add a message can telephone: 01244 972214 or 01244 977074  Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

* **If you are in need of help**

You should ask:

* Family. Do you have family close at hand?
* A friendly neighbour?
* Marston Parish Community Support team
  + Our contacts are below
* **Contact the CW&C Helpline on 0300 1237031** or www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/covid

Some residents have problems with the supply of prescriptions or provisions when their regular supporters may be unavailable. In this case don’t hesitate to use the support of your Marston Parish Community Support team.

**For those struggling financially**

The lockdown has faced many with financial difficulties. Those who may be struggling to pay billsplease use the CW&C Helpline as above.

* **If You’re Struggling to Afford Food**

You may be able to get **food bank vouchers** but you will need a referral which you can obtain from:

* CW&C Help Scheme 0300 123 7065 9am – 5pm
* Citizens Advice Bureau: CAB Helpline – 0344 576 6111 or call Sean on 07894 238 963, from 9.30am to 4.30pm - weekdays.
* WCCAB – Gaynor – 07736 621235 or Sam – 07596 338067, Monday – Thursday 9am – 5pm, weekdays only.

Once you have your referral Mid Cheshire Foodbank provides food parcels from its distribution centres in Northwich and Winsford by appointment. Deliveries can be arranged for residents in Northwich and Winsford who are unable to leave their home.

We are conscious that many will not have access to the internet so please feel free to ring in confidence one of our Councillors, who will put you in touch with the right person in Cheshire West and Chester Council.

* **Other problems?**

Our volunteer team is here to help please don’t hesitate to give us a ring and we’ll be pleased to assist.

**If you wish to volunteer to provide support in our community please contact us.**

**Phil Carter** 07879 843900 philandshe@hotmail.co.uk

**Dave Featherstone** 01606 631702

**Marion Potts**  07842 894733 marion.potts703@gmail.com

|  |
| --- |
| Parish Events |

**Lockdown Scarecrow competition**

Times have changed greatly over the last year and although we may not be able to meet up with all of our friends, family or neighbours we can still make one another smile and so we would like to introduce our Lockdown Scarecrow competition 2021.

Let’s display our vision of life after lockdown through garden scarecrows; it could be what we are looking forward to doing, or places we are now hoping to visit or simply being able to go back down to the pub or meet up with friends or family for a coffee.

If you complete the form on the back page and drop into the church hall letter box or give or email to a councillor, we will include your scarecrow in a map in next month’s Murmurs so people can walk a trail around the village.

Then let us know which Scarecrow most inspired you or just made you laugh and the most popular one will win a garden gift voucher.

Judging will take place over the Spring Bank Holiday of 1st, 2nd and 3rd of May

Answers to Quiz:

1) E 2) Indian Pale Ale 3) Giovanna Fletcher 4) Iain Stirling 5) "You're gonna be the lonely one" 6) Clifton7) Tower 8) One 9) TikTok 10) Pigs in blankets 11) Sweden 12) Athens 13) Nigella - appears she can't say microwave properly 14) Alexander Fleming 15) Vodka 16) Asia 17) England 18) 1997 19) Snow White 20) Black Widow 21) Cat 22) In the North Atlantic Ocean 23) Dave 24) Hawaii 25) Liverpool 26) Jordan North 27) Scotland 28) Coco Chanel 29) Chickpeas 30) Maroon

|  |
| --- |
| Useful Contacts |

|  |
| --- |
| **CWAC Councillors**  **Lynn Gibbon** 07581 226814  lyn.Gibbon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk  **Norman Wright** 01606 74788  norman.wright@chesterwestandchester.gov.uk  **Phil Marshall** 07917 171438  phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.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 Wiggins PCSO20322** diana.wiggins@cheshire.pnn.police.uk  **Officer Terry Boyle PC4555** terry.boyle@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 parish council.  **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 clerk or any one of the councillors |

|  |
| --- |
| 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 see: **Facebook/marstonparishcouncil**  Those who wish an electronic copy email info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk. |

|  |
| --- |
| Your Marston Parish Councillors |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **Chair: Marion Potts**  07842 894733  marion.potts703@btinternet.com |  | **Ian Stanley** | |
| ? | | Could this be you? |  | **Phil Carter**  07879 843900  philandshe@hotmail.co.uk | |
| A person wearing glasses  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | **Angela Johnson** |  | **Dave Collier** | |
| http://marstonparishcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/carolineconstable.jpg | **Clerk: Caroline Constable**  clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk | |  | **Amanda Nixon**  07786 135375  hoasisgarden@gmail.com, | |
| Website: www.marstonparishcouncil.co.uk  Email us at: info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk  Facebook: [www.facebook.com/marstonparish](http://www.facebook.com/marstonparish) | | | | |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Space for Williams advert

**Lockdown Scarecrow competition**



Name: …………………………………………………………

Address: ……………………………………………………..

……………………………………………………………………

…………………………………………………………………..

…………………………………………………………………..

Email: ………………………………………………………….

Fill in the form and post at the Church Hall, hand to a councillor or email your details to:

[info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk) by 16/4/21