



Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

July 21



Summer is here and hopefully we are feeling the benefit of vaccinations giving us more confidence in our health and enjoying the long days and contact with family and friends again.

We are looking forward to seeing old friends and new at the weekly coffee mornings and around the village.

15th July is St. Swithin's Day, but where does this legend come from and is there any truth to it? What is the story of St Swithin?

The old poem goes like this...

"St Swithin's Day, if it does rain
Full forty days, it will remain
St Swithin's Day, if it be fair
For forty days, t'will rain no more"



Swithin was a man born in or around the year 800. He became Bishop of Winchester. Unlike other religious figures, he asked not to be buried in a prominent place within Winchester Cathedral, but outside in a simple tomb "where the sweet rain of heaven may fall upon my grave". The legend says after his remains were moved inside there was a great storm and it rained for many weeks after.

Is there any truth to the folklore?

According to the old saying, if it rains on St Swithin's Day it will rain for the next 40 days. If St Swithin's Day is dry, the next 40 days will also be dry. No one takes the prediction literally - in fact, few take it seriously! - and there is definitely no statistical evidence to support the claim. Weather experts says that since records began in 1861, there has never been a record of 40 dry or 40 wet days in a row following St Swithin's Day.

So, while we might not like 40 days of rain, and 40 days of sun sounds fun, neither is likely to happen!

There will be no Marston Murmurs over the summer whilst we take a break, we will return in September.

Nicho's Café



As you may know residents of Ashwood Park have been liaising with the owner to see common sense about its plans to demolish the café. The site is owned by Tingdene and they recently applied to Cheshire West and Chester Council for planning permission to build another four homes and to demolish the café.

On 1st June many of the residents turned out to show their support for the status quo to remain. In fact, more than 250 people, including 150 residents, have signed a petition appealing to Tingdene to withdraw their application.

Many reasons have been put forward to support the case for keeping the café, including: the facilities within the current building and those before it have been utilised by current and past residents for over 35 years and that the café has always provided a functional amenity and social hub for residents and the surrounding community, many of whom do not drive, have a disability, live alone, and/or rely on the café to provide meals and use this facility for social interaction. Contrary to what the application claims, there are no similar facilities less than two and a half km away and for those who don't drive, the area is not served by a bus service and so getting to other facilities can be difficult

There are also safety concerns with the issue of speeding on Chapel Street and that the visibility along the road is poor even without these new homes being built.

Marion Potts, chair of Marston Parish Council, said she was keen to show her support to the residents of Ashwood Park.

She said: "We only found out about it very recently [*as the café is technically in Wincham*], but it does impact on Marston too because there aren't many facilities in the village. The existing cafe is well used and it just seems wrong to

remove the one facility we have like this in the area, especially as most of the people who live in Wincham and Marston are older people”.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

We have now filled our vacancy; we welcome Julie Ledger from Higher Marston to the team.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7pm in the Church Hall.

A full risk assessment will be conducted beforehand ensuring that current government guidelines are followed, and we ask that any member of the public wishing to attend contact our clerk at clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk for information.

Heritage Fingerpost - Update



The Parish Council are continuing to look into whether we can get our fingerpost sign renovated. Here is an image of how it used to look in times past. Not much has changed, except perhaps the traffic!

If you have any photographs of the “Cross Roads, Marston Common” then we’d really like to

see them.

Our weekly **coffee mornings** resumed on 8th June and we welcomed back old friends and some new. As the Covid restrictions are not completely lifted we will continue with our present format of waitress service to tables and drinks and toast etc done to individual order. Social distancing and hand sanitising measures remain in place for your safety.



Hopefully after the summer break in August, we will be able to start again in September with shared tables and more relaxed service, not forgetting the old favourite, ‘Duncans Quiz’. Join us Tuesdays 10am – 12 noon.

Summary Minutes of Marston Parish Council Meeting of 9th June 2021

The parish council has reported a number of issues around the village, particularly on Higher Marston, including overgrown hedges and verges, blocked drains and disrepair of the bus stop at Hall Drive/Marston Lane.

Wincham Parish Council are setting up a working party to try and tackle the problems surrounding use of Pickmere Lake. We are already involved with Pickmere Residents Association and hope to get involved with this too. Any developments will be reported back to you through Marston Murmurs.

The ongoing issues with the landowners of land to the rear of Ollershaw Lane and Northwich Metals and Tour & Store continue. Their appeal against enforcement for the building of sheds without planning permission has recently been heard. The appeal (APP/A0665/C/20/3247759) was denied, and they have until November to remove the buildings. The appeal (APP/A0665/W/20/3261755) for the erection of a cattle shed on the land was also heard, this appeal has been upheld and the cattle shed can now be built under conditions.

Bits 'n' Bobs

Gardening Jobs - July

- Move your house plants out of doors for the summer. Give the leaves a dust and a shower, then give the roots a feed and a good soaking
- Give hanging basket plants a trim to encourage them to bush out. Feed once a week and water once a day
- Strawberry plants will have thrown out runners by now. Pin them onto the surface of pots of compost and keep them well watered, they will root and can then be severed from the main plant then be used to plant up a new bed for next year
- Re-sow your seeds ... typically we make a frenzy of sowings late spring, early summer and then sit back and watch everything grow. This leads to a wonderful heap of produce and flowers in July and August, but little beyond. Sowing again now will extend the season until Autumn, Winter and into next Spring, and is easy when the ground is warm and seeds can be sown direct

Gardening Jobs - August

- Harvesting may be your busiest task this month, do it regularly and frequently. There is a big difference between a French Bean picked when sweet, tender and tiny and one that should have been picked a week ago, that difference is what makes growing your own worthwhile
- Potato blight can devastate your crop very quickly and arrives in late summer in warm and wet weather. Look out for rotting or shrivelling leaves and brown patches on stems. Dig up and use any affected crops as soon as possible
- Sow Green Manures ... sold as big packets of seeds to be sown directly onto fallow earth. There they germinate and grow quickly and thickly, covering the soil. There are several reasons for sowing a green manure. The main point is to create bulky organic matter that can be dug into the soil to improve its structure, a great solution if you want to give your soil a treat but don't have access to farmyard manure or lots of compost. They also drag up nutrients from the soil and make them more easily available to your plants. They also germinate so thickly they prevent weeds from getting a toehold

Strawberry & Banana Ice Lollies



Making these colourful, fresh, fruity ice lollies is child's play, but grown-ups are sure to want to eat one too

MAKES 8, READY IN 10 minutes, plus freezing time, & no COOKING

Ingredients

- 2 bananas, chopped
- 400g strawberries, hulled and roughly chopped
- 200g pure squeezed orange juice
- 2 tbsp clear honey

Method

In a blender, whizz all the ingredients together until completely combined and smooth. Pour into moulds and freeze for at least 4 hours or until completely frozen.

General Knowledge Quiz

1. Continental United States has 4 time zones, can you name them?
2. What was the Turkish city of Istanbul called before 1930?
3. From which US city do the band The Killers originate?
4. Name the Coffee shop in US sitcom Friends
5. How many human players are there on each side in a polo match?
6. In what year did Tony Blair become British Prime Minister?
7. How many times has England won the men's football World Cup?
8. What is the capital of New Zealand?
9. Street artist Banksy is originally associated with which British city?
10. From what grain is the Japanese spirit Sake made?
11. In which part of your body would you find the cruciate ligament?
12. What is the name of the main antagonist in the Shakespeare play Othello?
13. What element is denoted by the chemical symbol Sn in the periodic table?
14. What is the name of the 1976 film about the Watergate scandal, starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman?
15. How many of Henry VIII's wives were called Catherine?
16. What was the most popular girls name in the UK in 2019?
17. Which comedian was the second permanent host of Never Mind the Buzzcocks after Mark Lamarr?
18. Which popular video game franchise has released games with the subtitles World At War and Black Ops?
19. In what US State is the city Nashville?
20. Which rock band was founded by Trent Reznor in 1988?
21. What is the currency of Denmark?
22. Which Tennis Grand Slam is played on a clay surface?
23. In which European country would you find the Rijksmuseum?
24. How many films have Al Pacino and Robert De Niro appeared in together?
25. What was the old name for a Snickers bar before it changed in 1990?
26. Who was the head of state in Japan during the second world war?
27. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?
28. Who wrote the novels Gone Girl and Sharp Objects?
29. Which legendary surrealist artist is famous for painting melting clocks?
30. Which football club plays its home games at Loftus Road?

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.

➤ **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 bills please 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.

➤ **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.

Parish Events

Keep Britain Tidy – Litter Pick

Marston Village Litter picking was done around the village on the 6th June. 8 bags of litter were collected and taken for recycling and according to the Keep Britain Tidy campaign 1.6 million miles of the UK were picked, a great achievement. Thanks to everyone who turned out.



Sadly, with the verges being so overgrown, some litter will have been missed. We are doing another litter pick on Saturday 7th August at 10am (meeting at the Church Hall car park). Please make a note of the date and join us. Also, thanks to the regular litter pickers who tackle litter on a regular basis. To get involved please email our Chair Marion, at marion.potts703@gmail.com

24th July - **Witton Albion vs Northwich Victoria** (Vijay Anthwal Memorial Trophy) 3:00pm kick off, ½ of the gate money will be donated to the NHS. After the match meet a few of the players at the Salt Barge where children are invited to try and beat the goalie.

24-25th July - **Salt Barge Festival**, Live bands, Bar food & Meet Witton Albion football players. Look out the Steam engines too.

24-25th July - **Lion Salt Works Museum Transport Festival**.

Best Kept Front Garden



Gardens are a key feature of the summer and we like to celebrate this with our annual Best Kept Front Gardens Competition. Last year we were pleased to see many gardens were worthy of being crowned 'best kept front garden' and the choice was very difficult. This year we are introducing Gold and Silver Award

Certificates as well as the silver cup for the best overall garden. Councillors will be coming around the village in late July. So, gardening gloves on and dig up those weeds!

Just in case your garden is too perfect, we have some gardening tips from our non-expert gardener councillor. These are tips learned by trying hard to develop a great garden but failing miserably (and obviously all in jest).

1. Buy a dog, this will save you hours of digging by digging up your borders for you.



2. Replace plants on a regular basis, get fed up, build dog proof fencing from pallets. Try to pretend they look good by planting with flowers to compensate for the fact that you now can't see the flowers in the flowerbed.

3. Borrow an old hay trailer to move dismantled stable, put in garden until stable is needed again. Realise after 5 years it's still not moved. You now own a hay trailer and dismantled stable but it's good for storing logs under and keeping the dog out of the flower beds.

4. Run out of garden canes and growing room and plant the last runner beans at the bottom of the garden in a hole that the dog has dug and leave to grow up old washing pole.

5. Keep chickens until geriatric and not laying, costs the same as keeping laying ones, but without the hassle of collecting eggs.

6. Use mole grips to replace broken handle on garden umbrella.

7. Repurpose a bird suet ball container into a handy base for umbrella by filling with water and poking a hole in the lid. If you don't change the water, it will go green and match the green table and umbrella.

8. Turn old milking machinery into interesting garden feature, take lots of photos and baffle non farming people with why you would want to do that.

9. Cats are a good way to stop you quietly being in the greenhouse by jumping on the roof and scaring you half to death.

Follow these tips and you too will soon be disheartened, enjoying the amazed gasps of socially distanced visitors and wondering why you have not been asked to open to the public.

On the gardens theme, it has been suggested that we have a **community**



garden at the Church Hall. This would be fruit and vegetables donated and grown for villagers to harvest when ready to eat and enjoy. We would need some help to do this.

The best way would be some raised beds at the side of the carpark, out of the way of parked cars.

Volunteers could help plant, grow and reap the rewards of fresh food. There are few allotments available in the area and this is a way of providing a chance to see food grow and then eat it. If you could help by building raised beds or would like to be part of the community gardeners, please get in touch with any of our Councillors.

Answers to Quiz:

1. Pacific, Mountain, Central, Eastern 2. Constantinople 3. Las Vegas 4. Central Perk 5. Four 6. 1997 7. Once (1966) 8. Wellington 9. Bristol 10. Rice 11. Knee 12. Iago 13. Tin 14. All the President's Men 15. 3 16. Olivia 17. Simon Amstell 18. Call of Duty 19. Tennessee 20. Nine Inch Nails 21. Krone 22. The French Open (Roland Garros) 23. Netherlands 24. Four (The Godfather Part 2, Heat, Righteous Kill, The Irishman) 25. Marathon 26. Emperor Hirohito 27. Mercury 28. Gillian Flynn 29. Salvador Dali 30. Queen's Park Rangers

Useful Contacts

CWAC Councillors

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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](https://www.facebook.com/marstonparishcouncil)

Those who wish an electronic copy email info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk.

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