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|  | **Marston Murmurs** |
| **The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council Mar 21** | |



One of the loveliest sights in the fields surrounding Marston at the moment are the flocks of Lapwings.

Also known as the peewit in imitation of its display calls, its proper name describes its wavering flight. Its black and white appearance and round-winged shape in flight make it distinctive, even without its splendid crest. This familiar farmland bird has suffered significant declines recently and is now a Red List species. Lapwings are found on farmland throughout the UK particularly in lowland areas of northern England, the Borders and eastern Scotland. In the breeding season prefer spring sown cereals, root crops, permanent unimproved pasture, meadows and fallow fields. In winter they flock on pasture and ploughed fields. The lapwing has a spectacular song flight. The male wobbles, zigzags, rolls and dives while calling to advertise his presence to rival males and potential mates. The birds tend to nest in loose groups.

In the breeding season, lapwings need a mosaic of habitats, because they need different conditions for nesting and for chick rearing.

The nest is a scrape in the ground, lined with a variable amount of plant material. The birds need a good all-round view from the nest to spot predators, and nest either on bare ground or in short vegetation. They often choose rough or broken ground to aid concealment of the nest. Spring sown crops and rough grazing are ideal.

They lay clutches of four cryptically coloured eggs from late March to early June, and chicks hatch 3-4 weeks later. They are covered in down when they hatch, and are able to walk about and feed within hours.

Soon after hatching, the parents will lead them to suitable feeding areas, where the supply of surface invertebrates is good and the vegetation low. They particularly need to have nearby grassland, especially if it contains flood pools and damp patches.

The transfer between the nesting and chick-rearing habitats can be hazardous, and chick survival often depends on how far they have to travel. The families stay in the chick-rearing habitat until the young are ready to fly at 5-6 weeks old. Lapwings only rear one brood a year but may lay up to four replacement clutches if the eggs are lost.

The UK population of the lapwing fell by at least 40 per cent between 1970 and 1998.

This decline has been largely caused by the loss of mixed farming and spring cropping and the intensification of grassland management. Declines in the west of the UK are leading to local extinctions.

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| **Parish News** |

We are very sad to inform you of the retirement of our longest standing councillor, Chris Anthwal. Chris has been a dedicated and forthright member of the council, displaying an almost encyclopaedic and knowledgeable approach towards the most difficult of Parish Council tasks. She has been at most community activities and was pivotal in the instigation of the coffee mornings, walking group and other events. We wish Chris well in her new home in South Wales where she will be closer to her family, we are sure she will soon become an integral part of the community down there. Chris has promised to return frequently and so you may see her around from time to time.

Cheshire Councillors have been prominent in the local, national and international news over the last month and the Handforth Parish Council and the indominable Jackie Weaver have become household names. For those of you that may have missed this, a meeting of Handforth Parish Council was recorded and discovered by two young people who have an interest in local politics and posted on you tube. The meeting was rather volatile and managed superbly by Jackie Weaver from CHaLC who was brought in to mediate between the Councillors.

We would like to stress we at Marston Parish Council are nothing like this and are a friendly bunch of local people who are dedicated to Marston Village and its community.

So, again, we have a vacancy for a parish councillor. Please get in touch if you are interested.

**2021 Census**

The census is coming on Sunday 21 March. By filling in your census, you will help shape your community for the next 10 years. Find out more at http://cwac.co/BFKqw

**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.

**Thank you** to Ashwood Park resident Dot Bailey who has kindly donated £30 towards the Church Hall redecoration fund. We have now appointed a decorator so the work will soon be starting.

**Flooding**

As you are all no doubt aware Marston Village was affected by the recent floods due to snowfall and the rain during Storm Christof. The main areas of flooding were Ollershaw Lane, Ashwood Park but also many gardens around Marston Village and Higher Marston estate.

The issues of flooding have been raised by residents on numerous occasions and has been included in planning objections by Marston Parish Council.

One of the issues raised was the number of blocked drains which increased the water levels, there appears to have been little in the way of routine checking and clearing of drains recently. The road closed signage at the Higher Marston end of Ollershaw lane was inappropriately placed too far down the road causing vehicles to need to turn around resulting in damage to the central verge and road signage.

The damage to the road on Ollershaw Lane is extensive and resurfacing the road is now urgent. Marston Lane is also now littered with potholes and debris.

A picture containing track, train, tree, outdoor

Description automatically generatedThe operation to clear the flood water was impressive and the tractor drivers deserve recognition for the work carried out.

Ollershaw Lane

Ashwood Park

 

**Cold Call Scam on Ashwood Park**

Two residents on Ashwood Park have been conned out of cash for unnecessary work / no work to their home. A man stating he was from Smart Park Homes Ltd, Skelmersdale came on to the site unannounced on 11th February claiming he had worked there before. He and two young associates examined the two homes, 'found problems' and offered to fix them for cash. One of the victims was driven to a cash machine to withdraw money.

Needless to say, the con men soon disappeared.

Whilst this happened on the park home site con men use this same MO stating they have done work for neighbours in the past.

NEVER accept anyone into or around your home unannounced. If necessary, get a family member or a neighbour to check them out first.

Anything suspicious please make sure you report to the Police STRAIGHT AWAY on 101 or 999, obtaining car registration numbers and a description of the offenders, if possible.

On a personal note, we'd like to say thank you to the two residents who have come forward to share their dreadful experience in order to warn others and we wish them well.

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| Summary Minutes of Marston Parish  Council Meeting of 10th February 2021 |

We co-opted two new councillors to the Parish Council and welcome Angela Johnson from Higher Marston and Ian Stanley from Marston Lane.

The damage to the ‘triangle’ at the top of Ollershaw Lane and the ‘one way’ sign have been reported to CW&C and a contractor has already been appointed to erect a new sign.

Our Chair Marion Potts attended a virtual meeting with other parish council chair’s and Ward Councillors to discuss the recent flooding. Plans are being drawn up to mitigate any future problems which will include a maintenance plan to sweep roads and clear drains/ditches and provide signs/bollards/sand bags to parish councils so that they can affect an immediate response to any future periods of heavy rain.

Quotes have now been obtained for the painting of the interior of the Church Hall and the work will soon be starting.

Planning Applications:

Decision – 20/02867/FUL – Single Storey Garage The Moorings, Marston Lane – Approval

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| Bits ‘n’ Bobs |

**Gardening Jobs**

Start sowing hardier vegetable seeds into the garden; peas, broadbeans, spinach and parsnips can all be direct sown now. Make a nursery bed and sow thickly, thinning out when they are big enough to handle.

Plant out potatoes at the end of the month.

In the greenhouse sow cucumbers, aubergines, brussel sprouts, sprouting broccoli and cabbage and then towards the end of the month start sowing tomatoes.

Big clumps of snow drops can be lifted, split, and replanted once the flowers have faded.

Now is also a good time to either bring out your dahlia tubers or buy new, planting out into the greenhouse or onto a warm windowsill.

Blood Orange Tart

How beautiful is this tart? The season for blood oranges is short, so don't miss the chance to try this.

Ingredients

* 200g/7oz [sugar](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/sugar), plus extra for dusting
* 3 [blood oranges](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/blood_orange), juice and zest
* 1 tsp orange blossom water
* 2 free-range [eggs](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/egg), plus 6 yolks
* 200g/7oz [butter](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/butter), cubed
* 25cm/10in sweetened [shortcrust pastry](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/shortcrust_pastry) tart shell, blind baked (you can use ready-made)

**For the topping:**

* 3 [blood oranges](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/blood_orange), peeled, sliced into rounds
* 1 tbsp [demerara sugar](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/demerara_sugar)
* [double cream](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/double_cream) or custard, to serve

Method

1. Whisk the sugar, orange juice and zest, orange blossom water, eggs and egg yolks together in a bowl until well combined
2. Add the butter and set over a pan over simmering water (do not let the base of the bowl touch the water)
3. Cook for 15-20 minutes, stirring regularly, until the butter has melted, and the mixture has thickened
4. Pour the mixture into the cooked pastry case, cover with clingfilm (to prevent a skin forming) and set aside to cool
5. Arrange the orange slices on the cooled tart and sprinkle over the demerara sugar
6. Using a cooks' blowtorch, heat the sugar until caramelised, or like me, whack it under a hot grill
7. To serve, slice the tart and serve with double cream or custard and enjoy

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| General Knowledge Quiz |

1. How many teeth does an adult human have?

2. What is the largest bird of prey in the world?

3. In which sport would you use a shuttlecock?

4. Who is fifth in line to the British throne?

5. What is the biggest state in America?

6. Who wrote Snow White And The Seven Dwarves?

7. What is the capital of Hawaii?

8. Enchiladas originated in which country?

9. In Dirty Dancing, what is Baby's first name?

10. How many eggs does the average chicken lay per year?

11. In which English seaside town was ‘Fawlty Towers’ set?

12. What is a group of lions called?

13. Where would you find the River Thames?

14. What animal alive today is even bigger than a dinosaur?

15. What alcohol do you traditionally use to flame a Christmas pudding?

16. What is a baby kangaroo called?

17. What is the name of the fictional town where the series Stranger Things is set?

18. What year did Rihanna achieve global success with the mega-hit 'Umbrella'?

19. Name the slowest animal in the world.

20. Is the sun a star or a planet?

21. What are the names of Harry Potter’s parents?

22. What is the capital city of Spain?

23. Who plays Tommy Shelby in Peaky Blinders?

24. How many legs does a lobster have?

25. How many Michelin stars does Restaurant Gordon Ramsay in London currently hold?

26. What's the best-selling book of all time?

27. In which English county is the town of Stevenage?

28. Botany is the study of what?

29. To the tip - how tall is the Eiffel Tower in metres?

30. Sofia is the capital of which country?

Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

**COVID-19 Outbreak Board** meetings are now 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:

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

**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 on **0300 1237031**

**If You’re Struggling to Afford Food y**ou may be able to get food bank vouchersbut 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

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.

**Dave Collier** 07901 810558 davecollier87@hotmail.co.uk

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

**Dave Featherstone** 01606 631702

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

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| Parish Events |

Unfortunately, we are still unable to plan for any events due to COVID-19 but we are looking at ways to engage with the village and so we are planning to have a ‘Lockdown Scarecrow Competition’. More details will be in next month’s Murmurs, but get your thinking caps on and start collecting materials.

**Spread good cheer and best wishes**. On our back page we have a colouring in picture with an area for you to write a short note to someone else in the village who you may not even know. Lets keep in touch and let those around us know that we are thinking about them and if you so wish, leave your details for them to contact you. There’s a separate sheet included this month with all the street names within the village (and the house numbers/names). So choose a street and a house number/name, you may not even know where it is, and send a little note to a stranger and even though we can’t meet or get together we can still spread some cheer and best wishes.

Answers to General Knowledge Quiz

1. 32. 2. Andean Condor. 3. Badminton. 4. Prince Louis. 5. Alaska. 6. The Brothers Grimm. 7. Honolulu. 8. Mexico. 9. Frances. 10. 260. 11. Torquay. 12. A pride. 13. London. 14. Blue Whale. 15. Brandy (or rum). 16. A joey. 17. Hawkins. 18. 2007. 19. Three-toed sloth. 20. A star

21. Lily and James Potter. 22. Madrid. 23. Cillian Murphy. 24. Eight.

25. Three. 26. The Bible. 27. Hertfordshire. 28. Plants. 29. 324 m.

30. Bulgaria

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| Useful Contacts |

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| **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 |

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| **Cheshire West and Chester Council**  Mon-Fri 8am-7pm and Sat 9am-12.30pm (these times may differ due to COVID)  Online at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk  General enquiries 0300 1238123  Highways 0300 1237036  Street Scene 0300 1237026 |

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| **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 |

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| **Ester McVey – your local MP** Telephone: 01625 529922 |

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| **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 or even give us a ring |

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| 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**  Those who wish an electronic or large print copy email info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk |

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| Your Marston Parish Councillors |

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|  | | **Chair: Marion Potts**  07842 894733  marion.potts703@btinternet.com |  | **Ian Stanley** | |
| ? | | Could this be you? |  | **Phil Carter**  07879 843900  philandshe@hotmail.co.uk | |
|  | | **Angela Johnson** |  | **Dave Collier**  07901 810558  davecollier87@hotmail.co.uk | |
| 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) | | | | |

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Space for Williams advert



Just a little note to say hello ……………………………………….…………

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