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

The flower for the month of May is the Lily of the Valley.

This flower symbolises absolute purity, youth, sincerity, and discretion. But most importantly, it symbolises happiness. This joyful symbolism means that it’s very important to give someone you love a bunch of lilies of the valley on the 1st of May.

This tradition of giving lilies of the valley is an old Germanic custom: a tribute to Ostara, the goddess of the coming of spring and the growing light. In order to honour this important goddess, the Germanic peoples threw lilies of the valley into celebratory bonfires as a sign of respect and to show that they believed in her divinity.

**HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh**

It was with great sadness the nation learned of the death of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and few could not be moved by the image of the Queen sat alone in the Chapel at Windsor.

The funeral was held, as many have been, under strict covid rules, but still was a fitting and moving tribute to the longest serving consort in history. ‘Husband of Her Most Excellent Majesty’ seemed the most important title he held.

May he Rest in Peace.

Our thoughts are with The Queen at this most difficult time.

**Heritage Fingerpost**

The very first fingerpost was erected in Gloucestershire around 1697 but it was not until the Turnpike Roads Act 1773 made use of fingerposts on turnpike roads compulsory that they became ubiquitous across the country. Guidance was given in 1921 that road direction signs should have 2 1⁄2-or-3-inch-high (64 or 76 mm) upper case lettering on a white background and have white supporting poles.

It also recommended that the name of the highway authority be included somewhere in the design. This means that they all look very similar and yet there is local variation in historic designs, so each county has a slightly different design.

Signposts were removed across much of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during World War II. This was to prevent enemy forces from using them for navigation. Many did not find their way back afterwards but clearly ours did. This is assuming our fingerpost is pre-war, and it is probably a lot older but the actual erection date of the post is unknown. Perhaps someone out there knows more?

Our fingerpost is on the triangle by the Four Lanes Garage. A useful indicator for travellers and sign to our community of times past. If you want to go to Warrington or Northwich or even Arley Hall then this is a very good place to start. The fingerpost has stood the test of time but is showing signs of age and, to be straight on this, wonkiness. The parish council are hoping to get the feature restored so that it once again stands proud as an icon of our village. It should not just be a neglected post beside the main road. It has become part of our heritage and in the future should be something that the local community can cherish and identify with as a long-standing feature of this place we call Marston.

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| **Parish News** |

**Reopening of Church Hall**

In line with the easing of lockdown after the planned government updates on 17th May we will be hoping to re-open the hall for rentals and our weekly coffee mornings. This is obviously dependant upon positive news, but if all goes well we should be allowing use of the hall from then. Each hirer will be asked to complete a risk assessment to enable following of current guidelines and maintain the safety of all onsite. A risk assessment will also be conducted before any coffee morning. We will keep you updated.

**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).

**Annual Parish Meeting**

We will be holding our annual parish meeting next month.

The parish meeting is an annual meeting that allows residents to raise and discuss issues affecting the village and acknowledge our achievements over the previous 12 months. It is not a Parish Council meeting but the Chair of the Parish Council usually presides over the meeting**.**  We also ask the current Chair to step down and take nominations from councillors for a new chair, the new chair is then elected.

All residents are usually invited to attend but due to COVID-19 we ask that you stay away this year, sending any comments to [info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk). This year the meeting will be held directly before our May Parish Council Meeting on 12/5/21, so please send your comments by Monday the 10th.

**Next Parish Council Meeting**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 7pm in the Church Hall. Meetings from now on will be held face-to-face at the Church Hall rather than virtually online.

Last year a law was passed allowing councils to meet virtually rather than face-to-face because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this law was to last for 12 months. The government has decided not to renew this law and so council meetings must now resume face-to-face.

A full risk assessment will be conducted 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](mailto:clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk) for information.

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| Summary Minutes of Marston Parish  Council Meeting of 21st April 2021 |

**Planning Applications:**

Planning Application 21/01392/CAT – 8 Field Maple Avenue, Ashwood Park – Trim & shape overhanging tree. Clerk and Cllr Nixon to visit resident to ascertain problem and plans.

Planning Application 21/01078/FUL – 34 Manor Avenue – Single storey extension. No objections.

An inquiry is to be held on 27/4/21 for Appeals against refusal for planning application 18/04924/AGR and enforcement against building of agricultural buildings on land behind Ollershaw Lane without planning permission. Parish council objected to original planning application and support CW&C’s enforcement, council to reiterate objections and support.

**Cenotaph Repair** – repair due to be started last week of May, first week of June.

**The Side Door** on side of the Church Hall is due to be replaced with a fire door. Contractor quote accepted, awaiting installation date.

**End of Year Accounts** have been discussed. Closing balance on current account £10966.66, with receipts of £23013.55 and payments of £19614.48. We will be looking to do further improvements to the church hall over the coming year using this balance and also hope to use some of it for community events.

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| Bits ‘n’ Bobs |

Corona Virus Restrictions hopefully will be changing again on the 17th of May.

**Not before Monday 17 May 2021**

* Social contact indoors of either six people from different households (the rule of six) or two households (no limit on numbers)
* Indoor hospitality can reopen (including hotels, restaurants and pubs)
* Indoor entertainment can reopen (including cinemas)
* Large scale events in indoor and outdoor locations.

**Keep on following the rules:**

Please make sure you continue to follow **Hands > Face > Space:**

1. wash your hands regularly throughout the day (a thorough wash = 20 seconds)
2. social distance from anyone not in your household when you’re outside or visiting one of the services available
3. wear face coverings in shops, shopping centres, public transport and when you visit council buildings.

Please stay safe, we are reducing the pandemic by sticking to the rules and guidelines.

**Gardening Jobs**

**Jobs in the Garden this month …**

Apply a liquid feed to any bulbs that have finished flowering, and remove spent flower heads, to encourage more flowers next year.

Thin out direct sown seedlings in the vegetable garden, lifting and discarding seedlings that have been sown too dense, to give crops space to fill out. Do this in a couple of stages, some now and some in a couple of weeks, in case of slug attacks or calamities.

**Task for this month…**

Deal with slugs … May is the month for planting out seedlings. It is also when slugs are at their most voracious and can wipe out a whole row of painstakingly nurtured new seedlings in a single night. There is almost no point in growing anything from seed if you are not going to take on the slug menace, so be ready.

Remember you don’t necessarily have to use chemicals, why not try the old-fashioned beer trap; put a container in the ground (buried with lip a cm or two above soil height, so that beetles and other innocents don’t fall in) half filled with beer and then remove slugs every morning (disposing of them so that they don’t come back).

**Recipe**

As the new season rhubarb is now here, a recipe for Rhubarb muffins.

Ingredients:

* 110g golden caster sugar
* 65g butter softened
* 250ml sour cream
* 2 large eggs beaten
* 200g plain flour
* ¾ tsp bicarbonate of soda
* ¼ tsp salt
* ¼ tsp ground cinnamon
* ¼ tsp ground nutmeg
* 225g rhubarb, trimmed and diced
* 1 tbsp icing sugar to serve

Method:

* Pre heat oven to 190 c /fan 170/gas mark 5.
* Line a 12-hole muffin or cupcake tin with paper cases.
* Cream together the sugar and butter in a large mixing bowl with an electric mixer until fluffy, about 3 mins
* Beat in the eggs one by one followed by the sour cream
* Add the flour, bicarbonate of soda, salt and ground spices to the bowl. Stir well until you have a rough batter; it shouldn’t be totally smooth
* Divide the batter between the cases and top each with rhubarb, pressing the pieces into the batter
* Bake for about 25 – 30 minutes until risen and springy to the touch when pressed, cool on a wire rack.

Dust lightly with icing sugar to serve.

**Thank you** to Mr and Mrs Whittaker for their kind donation of £20 towards the church Hall redecoration fund.

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| General Knowledge Quiz |

1) What is the longest river in the world?

2) Which King of England was crowned on Christmas Day?

3) What is the name of Daniel Craig's first James Bond film?

4) What is the name of Paloma Faith's latest album, released in 2020?

5) Which famous graffiti artist comes from Bristol?

6) What is the deepest lake in the world?

7) In 2020, McFly reunited and released a new album. Name the four band members.

8) Which part of the atom has no electric charge?

9) What is the national dish of Spain?

10) What colour are the seats in the House of Commons?

11) What is the chemical symbol for silver?

12) How many stripes are there on the US flag?

13) Which is longer, a nautical mile or a mile?

14) What is rapper P Diddy’s real name?

15) At which venue is the F1 British Grand Prix held?

16) Which boy’s name was the title of the debut album released by Amy Winehouse?

17) What is the slang name for New York City, used by locals?

18) Gillian Anderson plays a therapist in which hit Netflix show?

19) What colour pill does Neo swallow in The Matrix?

20) Does a record turntable revolve clockwise or anti-clockwise?

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

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| Parish Events |

**Lockdown Scarecrow competition**

Thank you to everyone that has already entered the competition.

We don’t have long now until judging, so please get your entries in and lets celebrate the easing of lockdown and the return of some form of normality to our lives.

Remember we want to see what you are looking forward to again once lockdown has been lifted. Our parish council scarecrow is looking forward to the resuming of our weekly coffee mornings, what are you looking forward to?

Just send a quick email to [info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk) with your name and address and we can include you in our judging.

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

If further lockdown measures are eased after the 17th May update then we will start to plan village events. If you have any ideas then please get in touch.

Answers to Quiz:

1. The Nile 2) William I 3) Casino Royale 4) Infinite Things 5) Banksy 6) Lake Baikal in Russia 7) Tom Fletcher, Danny Jones, Harry Judd and Dougie Poynter 8) Neutron 9) Paella 10) Green 11) Ag 12) 13 13) A mile 14) Sean John Combs 15) Silverstone 16) Frank 17) Gotham 18) Sex Education 19) Red 20) Clockwise.

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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 81m-7pm and Sat 91m-12.30pm  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 |

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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 see: **Facebook/marstonparishcouncil**  Those who wish an electronic 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@gmail.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) | | | | |

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Space for Williams advert