



# Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

May22

## David Gosling, Fingerpost Restorer



David Gosling (left) and his assistant Ed.

*This is the first of a series of three pieces about our fingerpost; where it has been over recent months and what we've done with it and how we got it back again. We approached a fingerpost restorer, David Gosling, and in his own words he has given us a short resumé of who he is and how he came to restoring fingerposts.*

At the age of 52, and with a long and successful career in retail management behind me, I embarked upon a complete change in direction and one that twenty years later would bring me to the Cheshire village of Marston. Not that I knew I was taking a complete change in direction at the time as all I was doing those twenty years ago was responding to a request, I say request but it was more an edict, from my wife who at a parish council meeting volunteered me to restore the traditional cast iron fingerpost in our village.

At the time of this first restoration I was gainfully employed as the Director of Branded Products at Newcastle United Football Club, an interesting position not least because I am a Sunderland supporter, working alongside the likes of Ruud Gullit and Sir Bobby Robson, but the restoration was an interesting diversion from the day to day retail stuff.

Whilst carrying out the restoration I would joke with my neighbour about how we could take pictures of signs we had restored and stick them on a website and maybe even start a business doing this work.

This first project when complete attracted a lot of interest and the parish soon requested the same job on a second post they had within the parish boundary and although Cumbria County Council's Highways team were happy for these restorations to go ahead, they were becoming concerned that other parishes were starting to carry out restorations of their own posts with very mixed results. It was at this point that I suggested a guideline and specification document should be produced and issued to any parish wishing to carry out such work so that a good standard of restoration could be achieved. When my 'highways' contact said that, although he agreed with me, he had no time in which to pull together such a document I quickly volunteered and this together with a chance meeting with an ITN newsreader was the catalyst in setting up Signpost Restoration Limited.

Maintaining my retail career was important to me and the intention was to carry out the restoration of traditional fingerposts in my spare time and with the help of friends. By the end of 2002 I was working for a team of shopping centre management specialists and was managing a new outlet shopping centre being built in County Durham by ING Real Estate.

My 'Guideline & Specification' document had been accepted by Cumbria County Council as their standard for restoring traditional fingerposts and was beginning to be adopted by other English counties and promoted as the best way of doing things. The restoration work was growing organically, as neighbouring parishes were witnessing what had been achieved and were asking for their fingerposts to get the same treatment. The photogenic qualities of a newly restored fingerpost was leading to much media attention when projects were completed and the resulting publicity meant that orders were being received from throughout England and Wales. This rising demand meant that I could retire from the retail trade; at the time I was managing a shopping centre in Bologna, and could concentrate all my energy on restoring fingerposts.

Continued on page 11 ...



Easter brought us some much-needed sunshine and reminded us that Spring was here and the gardens, fields and hedges blossomed and grew. We hope you had opportunity to enjoy the holiday.

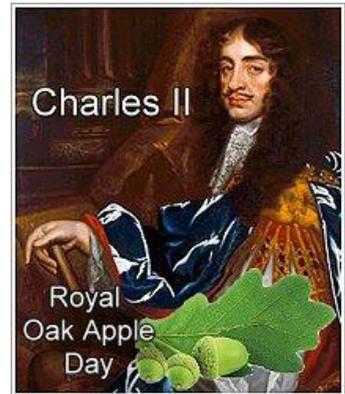
May traditionally has two Bank Holidays, May Day and the Spring Bank Holiday, but before this another holiday used to be celebrated.

Royal Oak Day  
29 May

**Royal Oak Day (Oak Apple Day) was a public holiday celebrated in England on 29 May to commemorate the restoration of the English monarchy, in May 1660.**

"Parliament had ordered the 29th of May, the King's birthday, to be forever kept as a day of thanksgiving for our redemption from tyranny and the King's return to his government, he returning to London that day."

*Samuel Pepys's Diary 1st June 1660*



The English Civil War 1642-1649 was fought between the royalist forces loyal to King Charles I and the parliamentarians led by Oliver Cromwell. The Royalists were defeated at the Battle of Naseby in 1645 and Charles I was caught and executed on 30 January 1649. Cromwell declared Britain a republic 'The Commonwealth' and went on to become its Lord Protector. Following his death in 1658 Cromwell was succeeded briefly by his son Richard before the monarchy was restored and Charles II became king on 29 May 1660.

Oak Apple Day was a time for dancing and parties. To show their support for the monarchy, people wore sprigs of oak leaves or a sprig with an oak apple on (gall produced in oak buds by wasps). On 29 May, children would challenge each other to show their oak sprigs or apples, and those not



wearing one would face some form of punishment, varying from one place to another.

"**Pinch-Bum-Day**" - a pinch on the bottom

"**Nettle Day**" - whipping with nettles

"The wise boy wore his oak leaves, armed himself (sic) with a stinging nettle and carried a few dock leaves for first aid just in case"

*Bibliography of Nottinghamshire Folk Plays & Related Customs*

In some areas it was necessary to wear the oak sprig only until noon; after that one was safe. In the 1890s many railway engines were decorated with boughs of oak on 29 May.

It is said that King Charles' life was saved after the battle of Worcester in 1651, when he escaped from the Roundhead army by hiding in an oak tree in the grounds of Boscobel House in Staffordshire.

Although the public holiday was abolished in 1859, Oak Apple Day continues to be celebrated in parts of England today and many pubs are still named 'The Royal Oak'.

## Parish News

### Next Parish Council Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7pm in the Church Hall.

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.

### Polite Reminder

The speed limit on Higher Marston estate is 20mph, please be mindful of it.

### Neighbourhood Plan

We are yet again asking for residents to step forward and help us develop a Neighbourhood Plan.

What is neighbourhood planning?

Neighbourhood planning **gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.**

Without a Neighbourhood Plan we may have no say over future developments within our village.

We don't need anyone with any formal training just a willingness to get involved and help formulate a vision for what and how you see our village developing in the future.

If you are interested then please get in touch via [info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk)

## Summary Minutes of Marston Parish Council Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Residents have been commenting on the shortness and lack of colour in Murmurs. Clerk advised of cost of each publication. An article will be put in Murmurs detailing costs and implications of making changes.

Ward Councillor grant of £100 has been allocated to help with Jubilee events.

Interactive Traffic Sign post has now been erected, awaiting on installation of sign.

## Parish Events

**Coffee Mornings** have resumed on Tuesdays from 10am until 12 noon at the Church Hall. All welcome.



### Queen's Platinum Jubilee Plans

Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations will be taking place over next month's long Bank Holiday Weekend (June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>).

The Parish council will be providing an afternoon tea at the Church Hall (see poster for details), and there will be events

over the weekend at Lion Salt Works.

We have also had interest from residents in bringing together a celebration on the back field at Higher Marston. If you would like to be involved in helping to organise this event, please come to the Salt Barge pub on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. This is not a Parish Council event and will require volunteers to bring together.



### Marston Church Hall



Marston Church Hall has recently had new central heating, fresh decoration and new carpet and is available to hire for your events.

The hall has kitchen facilities, toilets, tables, chairs and space for parties or groups.

To hire the hall contact:

Angie 07716 565038

Or

Caroline

[clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk)

Current hourly rate is £8.50 (this will shortly increase due to our utility costs increasing)



## Quiz

- 1 What's the birthstone of May - it represents love and success?
- 2 Which tennis Open Championship normally begins in the last week of May?
- 3 What are the two zodiac signs for the month of May?
- 4 May in the Northern Hemisphere is similar to which month in the Southern Hemisphere?
- 5 Which sweetly scented, highly poisonous woodland flowering plant is the birth flower of May?
- 6 Historically, what sort of dancing has been linked to May Day celebrations?
- 7 Who did Queen guitarist Brian May marry in November 2000?
- 8 'The Third of May 1808', is a painting completed in 1814 by which Spanish painter?
- 9 How long is the lifespan for the adult female Mayfly, *Dolania americana*: 5 minutes, 5 hours, or 5 days?
- 10 According to a 1732 traditional saying, what should you never cast till May be out?
- 11 What is the more common name for the Mayflower shrub?
- 12 Theresa May was born in which town?
- 13 Victory in Europe Day, generally known as V-E Day, was celebrated on which day in May, 1945?
- 14 In the nursery rhyme 'Nuts in May', on what sort of morning are the nuts gathered?
- 15 Which American federal holiday, sometimes called Decoration Day, is currently observed every year on the last Monday of May?
- 16 The Mayflower left England for the Virginia Colony with which other ship on the 15 August, 1620?

## Bits 'n' Bobs

### Gardening Jobs

- 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

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).

### **CW&C Report IT app**

Report any issues with pot holes, street lamps, bus stops, over grown hedgerow, 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.

### **Marston Murmurs**

After receiving comments about Murmurs the parish council are looking at whether it is feasible to make changes to the size, colour, content of the newsletter. Do you find it interesting? Would you like to see it "improved"?

Generally the newsletter has 12 pages including a colour cover and back page with black & white throughout the inside pages. This currently costs the parish approximately £150 per month to print, plus of course the time to put it together, but it is free to your door.

If we moved to full colour throughout this would add to the cost of printing (approx.. £50 per month). Furthermore if we expanded the length of the magazine this would incur further costs.

If the cost of the magazine publication goes up then clearly this increase needs to be covered by the parish council and this may mean that ultimately the local

precept that you pay with your council tax has to go up to compensate or do we start to charge a fee?

It's not to everyone's taste, but we could offset this by introducing paid advertising into the magazine which would offset the cost either partially or totally depending on the number of advertisements.

Nothing has yet been decided and various options are being explored.

We welcome your input on this, so please have a word with one of your councillors to get your opinion or "bright idea" noted.

### **Cocktail Recipes for the Jubilee**

Coronation Cocktail

25mls grapefruit juice

50mls orange juice

10pms lemon juice

Splash of sugar syrup

Shake together with ice cubes, strain into a glass and top with ice if required

Royal Mint

Fresh mint leaves (about 10)

25mls lime juice

25mls Apple juice

Lemonade

Break mint leaves into a shaker with ice cubes and the other ingredients shake together then strain into a glass, top glass with lemonade

Buckingham Breeze

50 mls Cranberry Juice

50 mls apple juice

15mls Lime juice

Shake ingredients with ice cubes and strain into a glass add more ice if needed

Answers to the quiz:

1 Emerald, 2 French Open, 3 Taurus (until May 20) and Gemini (May 21 onwards),

4 November, 5 Lily of the Valley, 6 Morris Dancing, 7 Anita Dobson, 8 Francisco Goya,

9 5 minutes, 10 A clout (an old word for a piece of clothing), 11 Hawthorn

12 Eastbourne, 13 8th May, 14 On a cold and frosty morning, 15 Memorial Day,

16 Speedwell

## Useful Contacts

<b>CWAC Councillors</b>	<b>Lynn Gibbon</b> 07581 226814 <a href="mailto:lynn.gibbon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">lynn.gibbon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a> <b>Norman Wright</b> 01606 74788 <a href="mailto:norman.wright@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">norman.wright@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a> <b>Phil Marshall</b> 07917 171438 <a href="mailto:phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a>
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<b>Cheshire West and Chester Council</b>	Mon-Fri 81m-7pm and Sat 91m-12.30pm Online at <a href="http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a> General enquiries 0300 1238123 Highways 0300 1237036 Street Scene 0300 1237026
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<b>PCSO Diana Wiggins PCSO20322</b> <a href="mailto:diana.wiggins@cheshire.police.uk">diana.wiggins@cheshire.police.uk</a> <b>Officer Terry Boyle PC4555</b> <a href="mailto:terry.boyle@cheshire.police.uk">terry.boyle@cheshire.police.uk</a> Dial 101 in a non-emergency and 999 in an emergency
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<b>Ester McVey – your local MP</b> Telephone: 01625 529922
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Further information on Parish matters can be found on <a href="http://marstonparishcouncil.co.uk">marstonparishcouncil.co.uk</a> Back copies of the <b>Marston Murmurs newsletters</b> are also on this website. For Facebook see: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/marstonparishcouncil">Facebook/marstonparishcouncil</a> Those who wish an electronic copy email <a href="mailto:info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk">info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk</a> .
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## Contact Us

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So, it was in May 2021 that I received an enquiry from Councillor Ian Stanley about the proposal to restore the parish fingerpost at the Four Lanes Garage junction on the A559.

David Gosling  
Signpost Restoration Limited  
[www.signpost-restoration.co.uk](http://www.signpost-restoration.co.uk)

(to be continued next month)

Space for Williams advert

Platinum



Jubilee

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service.

To celebrate this Marston Parish Council are organising an

# Afternoon Tea



At the Village Hall, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 2:30 PM

All residents of Marston village are invited and most welcome.

There is no entry fee.

There will be sandwiches, sausage rolls, crisps, scones, cake plus tea/coffee

Do come along and join in this very special occasion.