



Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

April 2023



A Word from the Editor

You may have read in the newspaper about the new artificial intelligence (A.I.) that takes predictive text to the next level. I wondered whether the A.I. could write an introduction to this newsletter?

I just asked the question and this is what it came up with:

Dear Marston residents,

As the spring season brings new growth and renewal, we are excited to present the April edition of our village newsletter. In this issue, we have gathered updates, stories, and events that reflect the unique character and spirit of our community.

We are happy to announce that the warmer weather has brought new opportunities for outdoor activities and events in Marston. From village-wide clean-up days to the reopening of local shops and cafes, we have plenty to look forward to in the coming months.

In this issue, you'll also find updates on community projects, local news, and profiles of the people and businesses that make Marston such a special place to live.

As always, we encourage our readers to share their thoughts, stories, and feedback with us. Our newsletter is a reflection of our community, and we welcome your input in shaping its content.

Thank you for your ongoing support and participation in our village life. We hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter!

Best regards,

[Your Name/Editor's Name]

All of the above automatically generated and maybe better than I could have put it myself. Forgive me if I don't put that to a vote!

A sign of the future there perhaps? Like it or loathe it A.I. is here and it will only get better. Perhaps the days of a human editor of this newsletter are numbered? I leave that thought hanging in the air.

Plum Tree Among the Skyscrapers by Simon Armitage

She's travelled for years
through tangled forests
and formal gardens,
edged along hedgerows,
set up her stall
on tenanted farms
then moved on, restless,
empty handed sometimes,
sometimes with fruit
in her arms.

She's hopscotched
through graveyards and parks,
settled down in allotments,
clung to a church roof
by a toe.

She's pitched camp on verges
and hard shoulders,
stumbled on threadbare moors
above the tree-line
and slumped it on wasteland,
but dug in on steep hillsides
and rough ground.

She was Queen of the May
on a roundabout once
in a roundabout way.

She's piggy-backed
across trading estates, hitched
in a mistle thrush beak,
drifted with thistledown.

She's thumbed a lift into town.

Now here she is,
in a cracked slab

in a city square
in a square mile
mirrored by glass and steel,
dwarfed by money
and fancy talk.

Hand-me-down brush,
pre-loved broom,
to the paid-by-the-minute
suits and umbrellas
and lunchtime shoppers
she's a poor Cinderella
rootling about
in a potting compost
of burger boxes
and popped poppers.

In that world,
orchard and orphan
are one and the same.
But she's here to stay -
plum in the middle -
and today she's fizzing
with light and colour,
outshining the smug sculptures
and blubbering fountains.
Scented and powdered
she's staging
a one-tree show
with hi-viz blossoms
and lip-gloss petals;
she'll season the pavements
and polished stones
with something like snow.

Church Hall

Coffee Mornings continue at the Marston Church Hall, Tuesdays, 10am – 12 noon.

Please join us for tea, coffee and a selection of hot toasted snacks. We have lively chats and a quiz.

All welcome

On 21st March at the coffee morning we welcomed PCSO Diana and Beth from Crime Prevention who gave a very interesting and informative talk on keeping safe at home and over the Internet.

We have copies of the very informative booklet 'Don't fall for a scam!'. Ask at the next coffee morning or a Councillor if you would like a copy.



DON'T FALL FOR A SCAM!



Senior Citizens Exercise Classes

In the last edition we floated the idea of an exercise class at the Church Hall.

There has been some significant feedback and so it looks like this class will get going shortly.

We are in talks with a qualified instructor, who already takes classes in Knutsford and surrounding areas.

He is keen to add Marston to his calendar which he is updating in May, so hopefully by late May, early June, we should have the class up and running.

Many thanks for your patience.

Anyone interested should contact one of the parish councillors.



Coronation Tea

The Parish Council are organising an Afternoon Tea at the Church Hall to enable us all to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

This will take place between 2PM and 4PM on Sunday 7th May. All residents are invited. More details to follow in the next edition of the Murmurs.

Coronation Bunting

The Parish Council invite you to decorate your home for the Coronation weekend.

Decorated houses will be honoured with a coronation pin badge.

The council "judge" will be doing the rounds on Bank Holiday Monday 8th May so please keep your decorations in place until the end of the bank holiday.

Local Schools to Change Status Litter Pick in Marston

After many months of research, the Federation of Antrobus St Mark's and Great Budworth Church of England VA Primary School (Governing Body) at Antrobus St. Mark's CofE Primary School has taken a decision to consider applying for academy status and joining Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT).

In considering applying for academy status, school leaders and governors have met with representatives from the Chester Diocesan Board of Education, from Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT) and have talked to other schools who are already part of CDAT and to other local schools. CDAT is the multi-academy trust that was originally established by The Diocesan Board of Education for schools in the Diocese who wish to take advantage of the academy model.

Hall for Hire

Marston Church Hall is available to hire for private parties, functions and groups. It has good parking facilities and has been recently redecorated, new carpet and central heating installed.

Hall hire is £10 per hour and includes heating and kitchen facilities. Church Hall Enquiries :

Please contact our booking agent Angie on 07716 565038

The Great British Spring Clean takes place from 17th March - 2nd April. During the campaign members of the British public join forces with a range of partners from businesses, big and small, to community groups and councils coming together as a network of #LitterHeroes to tidy up the places that we love.

Last year, people up and down the country pledged to clean up nearly half a million bags of litter, collecting and recycling harmful rubbish from our streets, parks, beaches, and other public spaces.

This year, our message is simple - we want to encourage everybody to take pride in their area by pledging to pick a bag or more of litter, helping to make a huge difference to our neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces.

After last year's campaign, 85% of people who took part in the Great British Spring Clean agreed that they felt more pride in their local area.

Marston Parish Council have joined the campaign and are organising a litter pick around the village on **Saturday 15th April at 10:00**. Please meet us at the Church Hall on Ollershaw Lane to collect bags and litter pickers. If you are unable to join us but would like to contribute, please litter pick the verge or area around your home and make our village litter free.

Concerned about Cold Callers?

Cold caller window stickers are available from the Church Hall on coffee mornings or from your local parish councillor.

PCSO Report for February

The local PCSO has reported back about incidents in the local parishes. For Marston there is nothing specific to report.

There are a few general points regarding fraud :

1. Several scams are being brought to the attention of ACTION FRAUD who have notified the police.
2. Scam emails regarding tax rebate and apple gift cards have been circulated.
3. The Beat Team will be informing local shops regarding the gift card scam and Cheshire Alert message to be sent out informing local residents to be vigilant re phishing/ scam emails.

We now have a new banner on the gate at the Church Hall



Cost of Living Crisis

If you use alternative fuels for heating you may be eligible for a £200 Alternative Fuels Payment (AFP) if both the following are true:

- Your household is not connected to the mains gas grid AND
- You use alternative fuels as your main form of heating

This is on top of the £400 from your electricity supplier.

You're eligible for this payment if the main way you heat your home uses:

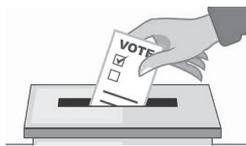
- Tank or bottled gas
- Liquid petroleum gas (LPG)
- Oil
- Wood
- Solid fuel

Gov.uk link for info:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-help-energy-bills/alternative-fuels>

Photo ID at polling stations from May 2023

Be aware that from 4th May 2023, people who wish to vote in person at elections (including those acting as a proxy), will be required to produce an accepted form of photographic ID to prove their identity before they will be issued with a ballot paper.



There is currently no requirement for postal voters to provide photographic identification for the May 2023 election.

Accepted forms of photo ID

You can use any of the following accepted forms of photo ID when voting at a polling station.

- Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state
- A Blue Badge
- Older Person's Bus Pass
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- Oyster 60+ Card
- Freedom Pass
- Scottish National Entitlement Card
- 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card
- Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card
- Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- War Disablement SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Biometric immigration document
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- National identity card issued by an EEA state
- Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland
- Voter Authority Certificate
- Anonymous Elector's Document

You will only need to show one form of photo ID. It needs to be the original version and not a photocopy.

Out of date photo ID

You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you. The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote.

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a **Voter Authority Certificate**.

Police Checks

Vehicles travelling along Chapel Street have been subject to monitoring by the police. H.G.V. Over 7.5 tonne are subject to restrictions in where they can drive. We understand that they are not all conforming to this requirement.

Hedge on Vale Road

After some years we have managed to get CWAC to cut the hedge on Vale Road, hopefully it will look a lot smarter now.

Where is this?

You know Marston well don't you? Tell me then, where is this?



Arriva bus services closing

There has been a proposal by Arriva Northwest and Wales to close their bus depots in Winsford and Macclesfield. On 27th February 2023 Arriva announced the proposed closure of their bus depots in Winsford and Macclesfield, affecting routes in West Cheshire and cross border services into Cheshire East.

Arriva run a number of services in the borough, these include local bus services and those run under direct contract with schools. The closure of the depot means that the last day of Arriva bus operation in the area will be on Saturday 22nd April 2023.

The local bus services affected in West Cheshire are:

- **7A/7C** - Winsford Town Services serving Glebe Green, Over, Grange, Wharton and Winsford Industrial Estate
- **31** - Northwich - Winsford - Leighton Hospital - Crewe Number
- **84** Chester - Tarvin - Tarporley - Nantwich - Crewe
- **1** Weaverham - Northwich - Rudheath
- **4** Barnton - Winnington - Northwich - Leftwich - Kingsmead
- **X31** Winsford - Northwich "Nightlife Express"
- **37** Northwich - Winsford - Middlewich - Sandbach - Crewe

Defibrillator Funding Rejected Defibrillator Training

We recently applied to the National Lottery Fund to fund a second defibrillator for our village.

Unfortunately this has been rejected. This is what the National Lottery Fund told us:

“The key areas we use to prioritise applications and make a decision are how strongly a project meets our funding priorities and how involved their community is with the design, development and delivery of the activities. Your application was considered in competition with others and it was not as strongly or directly aligned to our funding priorities, so we are not able to offer a grant to your project.”

Be a Good Neighbour

Please be aware that our neighbours are affected by what we do. Very easy to forget this.

Please keep an eye out on your neighbours' home, especially when they're out or on holiday. Tell each other when you're going to be away. Don't block driveways and accesses and if you're a dog owner please clean up any mess.

You don't have to be best friends, but it's always good to be warm and cordial – and who knows? Neighbours really could become good friends in the fullness of time.

Nikki and Simon Tate, who run a business on the New Cheshire Business Park, have indicated that they would like to support the community in providing training for anyone that would like, in operating defibrillators. This would raise awareness and confidence to those in the community if there was a need to use the equipment.

They are offering the training with no charge as they believe that defibrillators are fantastic pieces of equipment that will benefit all aspects of the local and wider community, especially if used quickly and correctly.

The courses could be in the daytime or evening to suit.

The Parish Council need to ascertain the interest in this training so we are reaching out to you in this newsletter. If you are interested please contact one of the parish councillors as soon as possible so that we have a better idea of how many are interested.

Thanks in advance.

Free Cakes

Are you struggling to provide your children with a birthday cake due to financial pressures?

We have a solution. Look at the advert on the back page.

Every child deserves an extra special birthday.

Easter Quiz

1. How many Easter eggs are sold in the UK every year?
2. Which country started the tradition of the Easter bunny?
3. How many marzipan balls are traditionally on a simnel cake?
4. The first Easter eggs were dyed what colour?
5. What is the tradition behind the hot cross bun?
6. In Switzerland, what animal delivers Easter eggs to children?
7. What is the Sunday before Easter Sunday called?
8. What is the official flower of Easter?
9. Besides bunnies, what animal is considered an Easter symbol?
10. What popular game is traditionally played at Easter?
11. Where is Easter Island located?
12. When was the first recorded use of decorated Easter eggs?
13. What meat is traditionally consumed on Easter Sunday?
14. Where did the Easter bonnet originate from?
15. Which island was first observed by European explorer Jacob Roggeveen on Easter Day 1722?
16. When do Easter egg hunts traditionally take place?
17. What happens on Maundy Thursday?
18. Why is it called Palm Sunday?
19. What dance traditionally takes place at Easter?
20. What do the marzipan balls on simnel cake represent?
21. Which country first introduced an Easter tree?
22. The end of Lent is called what?
23. Easter Sunday is also called what?



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Home Water Audit

As a result of the low water pressure over the Christmas holidays United Utilities have engaged Cenergist to do home audits to identify any hidden leaks, fix leaky toilets and taps. These visits are FREE and we would recommend that you contact them to make an appointment. During the visit they will:

- Check fixtures and fittings for leaks, e.g. taps, showers, toilets and fix them where they can
- Take the current flow rates within your home



- Provide water saving advice on how to use less water around the home
- Report any suggestions for next steps to United Utilities

To book an appointment call Cenergist on 0191 222 3325 or email watersaving@cenergist.com

Potholes and road faults

Aren't there a lot of potholes around? CWAC tell us that they inspect all roads and footpaths for damage on a regular basis in line with the highways safety inspection code of practice.

They will investigate where a pothole is at least 4cm deep on a road or 2.5cm on a pavement.

For potholes that fall outside of the criteria, they have routine maintenance and resurfacing plans in place.

If you want to report a pothole

https://bit.ly/potholes_marston

Higher Marston Playground

The new equipment's looking good! If you're a regular user we'd be interested in your feedback.



In the Garden

Encouraging Wildlife

Red-fruited pyracanthas, if not stripped of berries already, are particularly popular with blackbirds, while the white berries of the snowberry often attract robins and finches. As well as providing food, thick and thorny shrubs like these shelter young birds from predators.

It's a good idea to keep feeders well stocked for seed eaters such as finches and other farmland birds, which sometimes venture into gardens at this time of year in search of extra food.

You may be tempted to get out and start tidying up after the winter. However, if you can leave some areas undisturbed, it helps wildlife. Birds may be nesting in hedges and shrubs, so it would be good now to wait until after the nesting season to trim them.

Putting together a log pile will create a village for all things creepy and crawly. In turn, this busy community will attract birds, hedgehogs and frogs looking to snack on a tasty morsel.



Gardening in April

- Plant evergreen hedges (holly, yew etc)
- Sow hardy annuals
- Finish planting shrubs, trees and hedges, watering them in well
- Prune roses. You can shorten them by at least a half, cutting back just above an outward-facing bud
- Feed and mulch beds and borders
- Plant herbaceous plants
- Plant summer bulbs
- Sow tender vegetables such as tomatoes and runner beans on a window ledge indoors
- Buy young vegetable plants in a nursery such as lettuce and cabbage for planting out
- Introduce water plants into the pond
- Start growing vegetables outdoors from seed
- Mow the lawn on a high cut
- Make a bird box

Origins of April Fools' Day

It has been suggested that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. In the Julian Calendar, as in the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around 1st April.

People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognise that the start of the new year had moved to 1st January and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through 1st April and became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called "April fools." These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as "poisson d'avril" (April fish), said to symbolise a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person.

An Image from History

Locomotive at the mine.



Any rail buffs out there who can tell us more about this loco?

Something Missing?

If you think there are stories out there in the village that we're not covering then please contact the editor and we'll see what we can do.

Quick and easy midweek meal

Marion's One Pot Potato and Pork Chilli

By Marion Potts

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp oil
- 500g minced or diced pork
- 1 pepper
- 800g potatoes, diced
- 410g tin kidney beans drained and rinsed
- 500g jar chilli con carne sauce

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan and fry the pork and pepper for 5 minutes.
 2. Add the potatoes, kidney beans and chilli sauce, wash jar with a little cold water and add to pan.
 3. Bring to boil, cover and simmer for 25 minutes or until potatoes and pork are cooked.
- Serve immediately.

Useful Contacts

Parish Councillors	Marion Potts	CHAIR 07842894733	marion.potts703@gmail.com
	Caroline Constable	CLERK	clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk
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	Ian Stanley	EDITOR	ian@ianstanley.org.uk
CWAC Councillors	Lynn Gibbon	07581226814	
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	Norman Wright	01606 74788	
		norman.wright@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk	
	Phil Marshall	07917171438	
		phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk	
Cheshire West and Chester Council	Mon-Fri 08:00 - 19:00 and Sat 09:00 - 12:00		
	Online at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk		
	General Enquiries	0300 1238123	
	Highways	0300 1237036	
	Street Scene	0300 1237026	
Local Police	PCSO Diana Wiggins PCSO20322	diana.wiggins@cheshire.police.uk	
	Officer Terry Boyle PC4555	terry.boyle@cheshire.police.uk	
Local MP	Esther McVey MP	01625 529922	

Pink Moon

The Full Moon in April is named the Pink Moon after the pink flowers that bloom in spring.

Common names in Europe also refer to the budding and birth of spring: with grass sprouting, birds laying eggs, and people planting seeds. The Celts had names like Budding Moon, New Shoots Moon, Seed Moon, and Growing Moon. A Neo-Pagan name is Awakening Moon.

The Anglo-Saxons called it the Egg Moon, which is often referenced as a possible reason for the emergence of the modern Easter Bunny laying Easter eggs.

This year it's on 6th April at 05:46.

Earthshine Time

Earthshine is a dull glow which lights up the unlit part of the Moon because the Sun's light reflects off the Earth's surface and back onto the Moon.

It is also sometimes called ashen glow or the old Moon in the new Moon's arms or the Da Vinci glow, after Leonardo da Vinci, who explained the phenomenon for the first time in recorded history.

Earthshine is best seen a few days before and after a New Moon, right after sunset or before sunrise. Scientists studying global warming found that earthshine is more intense in April and May.

Have a look a few days before and after the New Moons on 20th April and before/after 19th May.

Quiz answers

1. 80 million
2. Germany
3. 11
4. Red
5. The bun represents the cross on which Jesus Christ died
6. The Easter Cuckoo (bird)
7. Palm Sunday
8. White Lilies
9. A lamb
10. An Easter egg hunt
11. The Southeast Pacific
12. In the 13th century
13. Lamb
14. Europe
15. Easter Island
16. On Easter Sunday morning

Where is this?

Ollershaw Lane,
near the bend,
looking north

17. Maundy Thursday marks the night of the Last Supper as told in the Bible. Christians often partake in a simple meal of bread and wine — commonly known as the Lord's Supper or Communion

18. Palm Sunday was when Jesus entered into Jerusalem greeted by the people waving palm branches

19. Morris dancing

20. Jesus' 11 disciples (excluding Judas)

21. Germany

22. Lazarus Saturday

23. Resurrection Day

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 or articles from any readers. Just send them through to the clerk or any one of the councillors.

Further information on parish matters can be found on www.marstonparishcouncil.co.uk

Back copies of Marston Murmurs are also on this website. For Facebook see www.facebook.com/marstonparish

Those preferring an electronic copy please email info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk



**Free Cakes for Kids
Northwich & Winsford**

Here at Free Cakes for Kids, we bake delicious, personalised birthday cakes for children whose families might find it a struggle to provide one.



If you would like a birthday cake made by our bakers, you can ask for a referral from your school, nursery, GP, health visitor, social worker, foodbank, church, youth group or any local community group or charity supporting your family.



All cakes are given 100% **free** with kindness and sprinkles. Because every child deserves an extra special birthday.



freecakesforkidsnorthwich@gmail.com

