

# Marston MURMURS



Dec 2023 - Jan 2024



The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

## A Word from the Editor

As the circle of the year comes to its nadir, it feels like the closing chapter of a cherished book. The pages of time have turned swiftly, and the seasons of this literary journey have cycled through their vibrant array. Today, as I announce my retirement from the role of editor, I find myself surrounded by a kaleidoscope of emotions. I am both humbled and honoured to reflect upon the remarkable odyssey we've shared. That's jazzing it up a bit I know but you get my gist.



As with every year, with every ending comes a new beginning, and I am confident that this newsletter will continue to evolve, thrive, and touch the hearts and minds of its readers under the guidance of a new editor.

Best wishes to you at this festive time!



### Parish Councillor Vacancy

Are you passionate about your village of Marston and eager to make a meaningful difference in your community?

Here is a wonderful opportunity to do just that! We are looking for a dedicated and enthusiastic individual to join the Marston Parish Council as a Parish Councillor.

This role is your chance to be a driving force behind the positive development of our beloved village.

### Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January**. Proceedings start promptly at 18:45. If you intend to attend please let the clerk know in advance. Please be early.

You will have the chance to directly influence the future of Marston. You will get a deep sense of fulfilment and pride in your contributions to the community.

There are opportunities to connect with other passionate individuals who share your love for the village.

You will also see personal growth and development through hands-on experience in local governance.

If you are excited about this opportunity please contact any parish councillor or send an email to the Clerk (see page 14).



## Flooding in Earles Lane

We have been contacted by a concerned resident about the flooding on Earles Lane between Whitewood and the Hollies and also between the footpath and new barn.

The first flood this autumn was on the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> October, the incident was reported and allegedly resolved by Highways. The grids were clear but there has been subsequent flooding on 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and again on 7<sup>th</sup> November. The water was coming up out of the grids during periods of heavy rain, flooding the road to “top of Wellies” depth and then clearing very slowly. It appears that there is a blockage further down stream.

It’s quite likely that the ditches need clearing out but the Parish Council are investigating this incident with the Highways dept..



## Exercise Sessions

The Thursday morning chair exercise class has been well received at the church hall since we started it in June! There is always room for a few more participants, especially if you have over indulged over Christmas!

If you would like to join in, please just turn up in comfy clothes ten minutes before the class starts. Thursdays at 11:00. It only costs £5.

## Bus Route through Marston

The Transport & Infrastructure Team tell us that there is currently no funding available to provide a new local bus service which could serve Marston.

Furthermore the *iTravel* scheme operating in the Frodsham area does not cover Marston which falls outside the boundaries of the project there.

There is however a community transport service operating in our area which may be a welcome solution for some people.

**Changing Lives Together** operate a service called **Your Bus** and they have provided us with the following details about this:

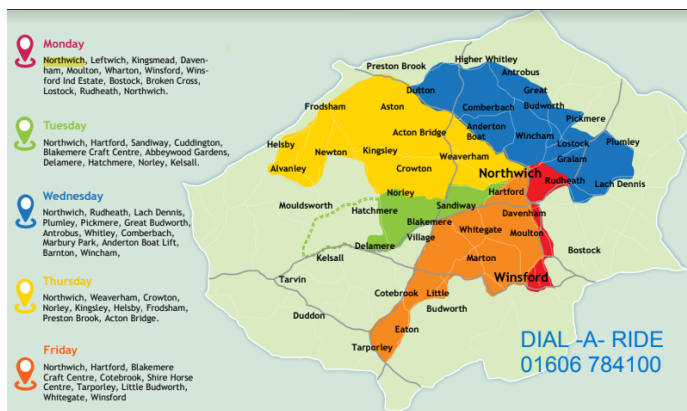
Anyone wanting to travel would need to become a member and they can do this by going on our website and filling in the dial a ride form – [www.yourbus.info](http://www.yourbus.info)

Please see attached Map of the area zones covered and days they operate in those zones. Marston will fall into the Wednesday zone so anyone from that area can travel within that area only on a Wednesday.

They have a minibus with a tail lift and space for 2 x wheelchairs. If a person is to stay travelling in their chair, the chair will need to be a crash tested chair (normally stamped on the chair somewhere or in the wheelchair passport).

The bus starts to collect from 09:30 (we cannot give certain times as all depends how many people are on that day).

The journey is £5 return, or £3 one way and they must book at least 24 hours before the day they wish to travel as the bus can get booked up.



Supporting people in our community





## PCSO Report

### Wildlife

Report of badger set at the location of Marbury Park.

Report of Jack Russell near to the entrance of Marbury Park.

Report of dog on Linnard's Lane Wincham after escaping from residential property.

### Theft of motor vehicle

Motorbike stolen from address on Emmett Street, Barnton.

### Suspicious person

Report of two men seen on a video door bell in the early hours looking for Groobox - Great Budworth.

### Theft other

Report of number plates stolen from vehicle in Barnton.

Drum of oil from the rear of the Antrobus Arms.

### Speeding

Speed enforcement carried out within the Marbury Ward:

Warrington Road Comberbach  
New Road, Anderton

Marbury Road, Comberbach

Speed monitoring has been conducted at various locations within the Marbury Road.

Residents voice carried out on Ash house Lane.

General patrol of Marbury Ward - Rural included.

Local "intel" submitted.

Youth Club Barnton attended.

Comberbach School attended regarding visit and parking issues.

Barnton School attended regarding parking.

Wincham School attended to check on parking.

Little Leigh to be attended this week 7<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> November regarding parking complaints from local resident.

Police Surgery to be held on Friday 10th November :

**Wincham community centre** -  
9:00 - 10:00

**Comberbach Memorial Hall** -  
10:30 - 11:00

**Barnton Library** - 11:30 - 12:30

At present the Marbury ward is quiet with little activity regarding drugs.

Over the Hallowe'en / Bonfire weekend there were no reports of any anti social behaviour within the area.



**Cheshire  
Constabulary**



## **The Salt Barge Re-opens!**

On a dark and damp November night, when the rest of the world was closing down for the winter, the village pub was coming back to life! The lights are back on and a new era is starting.

It was a quick decision by all accounts. Alan's' parents were away on a cruise and came back to the news that Alan, Jayne and Claire had bought a pub and were opening in three days!

The new tenants are Claire, Jayne and Alan. They are full of enthusiasm and are providing a welcoming space for residents to sit, talk and enjoy themselves.

There has been a lot of work going on at the Salt Barge, and right up until opening night! It's been all hands to the pump! A big shout out is necessary to all those residents who volunteered to help out in the weeks leading up to the opening. Special mentions to Claire & Jayne's parents, Iain & Jayne. The sisters tell me about their Dad that "he is without doubt the best Dad". Also a shout out to firms such as Mid-Cheshire Flooring who were working right up until the deadline behind the bar. Also not forgetting the work spent time sanding down the table tops was very much appreciated, so thanks for that.

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The opening night went well, a full house! Fires were lit, traditional music was setting the tone (courtesy of Mack's Music/Codswallop) and plenty of ale was consumed. The only oversight was that someone had forgot to order some crisps!

They are sisters of course, Claire and Jayne, and furthermore they are a Marston family, brought up in Ollershaw Lane opposite the Salt Barge.

Claire is already a publican with 22 years experience, the last 5 years have been at the Iron Bridge in Castle. She has worked extensively in hospitality both in England and abroad in places such as Ibiza and Andorra.

Jayne started as a kitchen porter actually here at the Salt Barge 20 years ago and has since worked in restaurants and elite bistros across the world including 12 months based in New Zealand. Of course there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> partner, Alan, who is Jayne's partner. Alan is an electrician by trade. This seems like a combination made in heaven, one partner with experience of public houses, another experience in restaurants, the other with experience of the practical matters of making it all work.



... After a few drinks, later that evening!



The session beer is 1924 by MBH (Mobberley Brewhouse Brewery). Easy drinking & smooth best bitter with balanced malt, fruit & hop flavours. alc. 4.0%/vol. I have tried it myself and can recommend it. There is also an IPA from MBH called Snap Action, super pale malt and citra hops, a crisp, fresh & fruity Session IPA. (alc. 4.6%/vol).

The wines are provided by LWC. There are of course lagers, stouts, wines and spirits also available. The range will continue to grow.

At first there will be no food on the menu until they have had chance to renovate the kitchen but I'm sure you will read an update on that situation in future copies of Marston Murmurs.

The pub will continue to encourage games. Unfortunately the pub reopened just too late to get a team into the Pool League this season but fully intends to have a team in the summer league next year.

They have already invested in a new pool table.

The Dominoes and Darts teams which had to move out of the pub when it closed are being welcomed back and hope is that a thriving games scene can be established in 2024.



Claire and Jayne tell me that "Community" is their driving factor and I'm sure this will chime with many locals and also the passing trade brought in by the adjacent Trent and Mersey canal.

I get the impression that the new tenants are not here just to do the place up and sell it on. I think they will be here for the "long game" and so I think we as residents of this lovely village can look forward to many more years of enjoying the delights of our local hostelry.

If you haven't been back there since October I would strongly suggest that you give it a go. There will be music on the second and fourth Thursday of every month and possibly also on Sundays (to be confirmed). There is plenty of room in the car park and a warm welcome awaits you. They even have crisps available now!



Over Christmas and New Year the opening hours will be:

- Christmas Eve, 12:00 to 22:30 (Sunday hours)
- Christmas Day, 11:30 to 14:30 only
- Old Year's Night, 12:00 till late (Music with "Assets")
- New Year's Day, 12:00 - 23:00



## Miriam's Book of the Month

### *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn

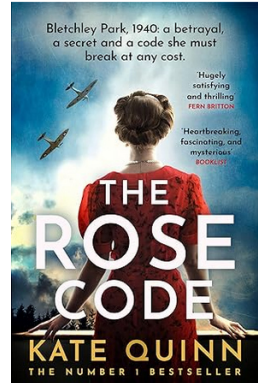
The New York Times & USA Today bestselling author of *The Huntress* and *The Alice Network* returns with another heart-stopping World War II story of three female code breakers at Bletchley Park and the spy they must root out after the war is over.

1940. As England prepares to fight the Nazis, three very different women answer the call to mysterious country estate Bletchley Park, where the best minds in Britain train to break German military codes. Vivacious debutante Osla is the girl who has everything, beauty, wealth, and the dashing Prince Philip of Greece sending her roses, but she burns to prove herself as more than a society girl, and puts her fluent German to use as a translator of decoded enemy secrets.

Imperious, self-made, Mab, product of East-end London poverty, works the legendary codebreaking machines as she conceals old wounds and looks for a socially advantageous husband. Both Osla and Mab are quick to see the potential in local village spinster Beth, whose shyness conceals a brilliant facility with puzzles. Soon Beth spreads her wings as one of the Park's few female cryptanalysts but war, loss, and the impossible pressure of secrecy will tear the three apart.

1947. As the royal wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip whips post-war Britain into a fever, three friends-turned-enemies are

reunited by a mysterious encrypted letter. The key to which lies buried in the long-ago betrayal that destroyed their friendship and left one of them confined to an asylum. A mysterious traitor has emerged from the shadows of their Bletchley Park past, and now Osla, Mab, and Beth must resurrect their old alliance and crack one last code together. But each petal they remove from the rose code brings danger and their true enemy closer. Having visited Bletchley Park, this book really brought to life for me such a gripping story, how many mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers have gone to their grave keeping their secrets. This is the second book I've read from Kate Quinn, the other was **The Alice Network**, another read I can also recommend. If you enjoy a good story, one you can get immersed in then this is the book for you, though the story revolves around three women it's not a girly book. Enjoy!





## Level 2 Counselling Skills

The qualification is for anyone who would like to develop their use of counselling skills for use in either work or in a personal capacity. These may be learners who wish to progress towards further qualifications, or learners who wish to study this programme in order to complement other programmes. (e.g. health and social care; children's care, learning and development; voluntary and community work).

**\*This course is FREE to complete if you meet all eligibility criteria for funding\***

### Counselling and Food Safety

Fabulous new course coming up in the New Year at Northwich Work Zone, to enquire or book a place for Level 2 Counselling, call them on: 07833 236675

Also, back by demand, our Level 2 Food Safety course. Do you work in catering or maybe you have your own artisan stall...and need an update in Food Hygiene? Tel .07833 236675

Also Level 1  
Customer Services -  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec  
09.15 – 14.30



### Xmas coffee morning

19<sup>th</sup> Dec, mince pies and sherry.  
Donations invited for raffle prizes

### Pickmere Lake

Following the Commissioner's public meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October to discuss the issues around the lake, a further meeting has been arranged, as promised, by the Police & Crime Commissioner to invite the relevant partners around the table to discuss a way forward to address the problems.

This will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

This is not a public meeting but you will be represented there by Marston Parish Council.

The Commissioner has asked that we reflect on the issues that were discussed at the public meeting in October and come to this meeting with some ideas as to how the issues can be resolved.

If you have any observations then please let any parish councillor know about them before 6<sup>th</sup> Dec.

## Community Sport Audit

The National organisation, StreetGames, have been tasked with an audit of community sport and physical activity provision for vulnerable young people in Cheshire. Young people who are at risk of exposure to violence and/or exploitation.

Organisations which provide such activities are being asked to complete a survey, the results of which will be used to map existing provision and identify where gaps exist. Feedback will also be used to develop best practice on how sport and physical activity can be used to divert young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour, and will shape future provision.

If you know of any organisations in your communities and networks who should be heard then please do share this survey with them.

You need to act now though as it will close on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/OPCC-Cheshire-Audit>

## Please Report Traffic Issues

Don't forget that we can't do anything about traffic issues, speeding etc., if we don't know about it. Please inform any parish councillor and send any corroborating evidence you may have such as photos or videos.

## Funding from Freedom Fibre

Councillors Marion Potts, Amanda Nixon and Phil Carter recently attended an award ceremony with Freedom Fibre after applying for funds.

The Parish Council have been awarded £450 that will be put towards improving the village. Initially wildflower seeds will be given to every home within the village and we hope that residents will plant them to help with the biodiversity of their gardens.

Any remaining funds will be spent on providing bird boxes around the Church Hall.

### Church Hall

Coffee Mornings continue at the Church Hall, Tuesdays, 10:00 – 12 noon.

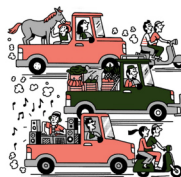


Please join us for tea, coffee and a selection of hot toasted snacks. We have lively chats and a quiz.

All welcome



To hire the church hall for your event contact details are near the back of this newsletter.



## Xmas Quiz

1. What were the main ingredients of the 1930s Christmas favourite eggnog?
  - a) Egg, milk, cream, sugar and spirits (brandy, rum or whisky)
  - b) Egg, milk, cream, sugar and wine
  - c) Egg, milk, cream, sugar and nutmeg
  - d) Egg, milk, cream, sugar and beer
2. What meat was often given by landowners as a Christmas gift to their friends and neighbours in the 17th and 18th centuries?
  - a) Beef
  - b) Turkey
  - c) Venison
  - d) Lamb
3. The master of the Chapel Royal, William Cornish laid on entertainments involving performers emerging from a timber model castle at Eltham for which English king?
  - a) Henry V
  - b) Henry VI
  - c) Henry VII
  - d) Henry VIII
4. On what day did servants traditionally have their Christmas dinner in country houses during the 19th century?
  - a) On Christmas Eve as they would haven't time on Christmas day
  - b) Late in the evening on Christmas day after the family has gone to bed
  - c) On Boxing Day as they would be busy serving the family on Christmas day
  - d) On New Year's eve
5. Queen Victoria and her family were fond of amateur theatricals at Christmas, but in which room at Osborne were these held in the 1890s?
  - a) The Billiard Room
  - b) The Council Room
  - c) The Drawing Room
  - d) The Durbar Room



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## Useful Contacts

<b>Parish Councillors</b>	Marion Potts	CHAIR 07842894733	<a href="mailto:marion.potts703@gmail.com">marion.potts703@gmail.com</a>
	Caroline Constable	CLERK	<a href="mailto:clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk">clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk</a>
	Phil Carter	07879843900	<a href="mailto:philandshe@hotmail.co.uk">philandshe@hotmail.co.uk</a>
	Dave Collier	07901810558	<a href="mailto:davecollier87@hotmail.co.uk">davecollier87@hotmail.co.uk</a>
	Angela Johnson	07729910045	<a href="mailto:angelazjohnson48@gmail.com">angelazjohnson48@gmail.com</a>
	Amanda Nixon	07786135375	<a href="mailto:hoasisgarden@gmail.com">hoasisgarden@gmail.com</a>
	Ian Stanley	EDITOR	<a href="mailto:ian@ianstanley.org.uk">ian@ianstanley.org.uk</a>
<b>CWAC Councillors</b>	Lynn Gibbon	07581226814	<a href="mailto:lynn.gibbon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">lynn.gibbon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a>
		01606 74788	<a href="mailto:norman.wright@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">norman.wright@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a>
	Norman Wright	07917171438	<a href="mailto:phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a>
		07917171438	<a href="mailto:phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a>
<b>Cheshire West and Chester Council</b>	Mon-Fri 08:00 - 19:00 and Sat 09:00 - 12:00		
	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	
<b>Local Police</b>	PCSO Diana Wiggins PCSO20322	<a href="mailto:diana.wiggins@cheshire.police.uk">diana.wiggins@cheshire.police.uk</a>	
	Officer Terry Boyle PC4555	<a href="mailto:terry.boyle@cheshire.police.uk">terry.boyle@cheshire.police.uk</a>	
<b>Local MP</b>	Esther McVey MP	01625 529922	
<b>Church Hall Hire</b>	1. Angie Kemmett	07716565038	
	2. Angela Johnson	07729910045	



## Answers to the Quiz

1. a) Egg, milk, cream, sugar and spirits (brandy, rum or whisky)
2. c) Venison
3. d) Henry VIII
4. c) On Boxing Day as they would be busy serving the family on Christmas day
5. d) The Durbar Room

## Ian's Joke of the Month

How many seconds are in a year?

There are only 12! But why?

2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jun, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jul, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep, 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

## International Year of Camelids

The UN has designated 2024 as the International Year of Camelids.

Camels, llamas, alpacas, vicuñas and guanacos are an important source of livelihood for millions of families -

most of them pastoralists - in dryland and mountainous rangeland ecosystems around the world. The

Year is meant to raise the public's and policymakers' awareness of the significant role of camelids in

protecting ecosystems, conserving biodiversity, assuring food security and adapting to climate change. The

resolution for the International Year of Camelids, proposed by the

Government of Bolivia and presented by Ecuador as Country

Chair of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC),

was approved by the UN General Assembly on 17 October 2017 upon

recommendation by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN).

## Geminid meteor shower

The Geminids, with a possible hourly rate of 150 meteors per hour, are one of the best meteor shower displays you can see all year.

Reaching maximum on 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>

December, the Moon will be a waxing crescent on the peak,

making viewing conditions favourable.

As with most showers your best chance to see meteors is in the early hours of the morning around the peak, though a good number should be seen any time from a few hours after sunset.

## Marston Murmurs

A special request for you. We don't always have sufficient copies of the Murmurs to supply the Garage, Salt Barge & Salt Museum.

If you read your copy quickly please consider dropping it off at one of those places so that someone else can read it. Many thanks.

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](http://www.marstonparishcouncil.co.uk)

Back copies of Marston Murmurs are also on this website. For Facebook see [www.facebook.com/marstonparish](https://www.facebook.com/marstonparish)

Those preferring an electronic copy please email [info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk)



*Marston Parish Council  
wish all readers of  
Marston Murmurs  
a very happy  
Xmas and New Year!*

