



Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

February 2023



Out of the Darkness

A Word from the Editor

February is that month when things finally seem to get moving again. Suddenly there's a lot going on. Whether your thing is "Pancake Day" or "Valentine's Day", "Chinese New Year" or the "Six Nations" rugby union there's something to look forward to coming up locally or on TV. Various flowers bloom this month like Crocus, Iris, early Daffodils, Cyclamen and of course Snowdrops. I'm told that the Snowdrop Walks at Rode Hall & Gardens are very good.

The nights in December & January are long and dark but by the end of this month the sun will be setting at about a quarter to six and spring will be just around the corner. Hold on to that thought.

An Image from the Archives

The salt works and mine are not visible today. The area has seen partial subsidence. The mine manager's house known as Crystal Cottage and a small brick shed that was probably the mine weighbridge house still survives. The cottage was renovated in the 1990s and is still occupied today.



Road Traffic Accidents

Residents continue to mention about their safety concerns regarding the junction of Marston Lane and Dark Lane.

We understand from the Cheshire Constabulary that there have been less than ten *reported* Road Traffic Collisions at this junction in the last 12 months. Unfortunately they do not hold data for any near misses, only confirmed collisions that have been reported directly to the police.

It is possible that if there have been collisions of a “low level nature”, with no injuries then it may be the case that the involved parties have simply exchanged details and gone on their way. If this is the case then the police would not have any reports or data.

There was another accident at this junction on the afternoon of 9th January, two cars were damaged but we are not aware of any injuries.

The hedge on Marston Lane has been taken out overnight presumably by a lorry veering off the road. Only the damage to the hedge is known about. If anyone has any more information please let us know.

Accidents happen here and quite often insurance details are exchanged and no further action takes place. These events need to be documented to enable us to put a case together to make this junction safer. If you are made aware of such an accident then please document it and report it. If serious the police should be contacted in the usual way (999). If not so serious contact our local PCSO Wiggins or PC Boyle (contact details at the end of this newsletter), the Marbury Police Facebook page or one of the local parish councillors.

Local PCSO Report, November

Theft report of a catalytic converter from an unattended stationary vehicle. No further details are available.

Local dedicated police officer is PC Boyle carried out speed enforcement on Ollershaw Lane on two occasions.

Church Hall

We have had some issues with the heating at the Church Hall. We are taking steps to get this sorted out and the hall will once again be a "warm space" for you to enjoy.

Coffee Mornings continue at 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.



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 Flood Hub, Planning, Flood Risk and Development Survey

Many of you will remember recent floods in Northwich and also those floods last winter on Ollershaw Lane.

There is a survey to gauge awareness and understanding from the public in regard to planning, flood risk and development. The information that is gathered from the survey will be used to help create new and informative content for **The Flood Hub**, as well as a future campaign that will be run to raise awareness and increase understanding of this topic.

The survey can be found here: <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/planning-flood-risk-and-development-survey/>

It will only be running until the 3rd February 2023 so you need to act now to take part.

Your responses will be anonymous and the survey should only take around ten minutes of your time.

Dark Lane

The Parish Council has reported the flooding at the bottom of Dark Lane and if it affects anyone they should report it directly to CWaC.

Home Upgrade Grant

Many of you will be struggling with what has become known as the “Cost of Living Crisis”.

Be aware that Cheshire West and Chester Council’s Home Upgrade Grant scheme is available now and offers a variety of energy efficiency measures including insulation and clean-heat technologies. The scheme will help lower energy bills through improved energy efficiency, reduce property carbon emissions and improve residents’ health and well-being resulting from warmer, safer homes.

To be eligible residents must meet the following three criteria:

1. Living in a property which is heated by electric, LPG, oil or solid fuel
2. Property’s Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating is Band E, F or G
3. Household must be in receipt of qualifying benefits or have a combined annual income of £30,000 gross or less.

The scheme’s fully funded for homeowners. Landlords with an eligible tenant are required to contribute 1/3 towards improvement costs.

All information and the on-line application form is available on the Council’s Home Energy webpages.

Residents who don’t have on-line access can apply in person at the reception desk at either The Portal in Ellesmere Port or Wyvern House in Winsford.



← You know Marston well, but where in the village is this?

Pancake Day

Just a reminder that Pancake Day this year falls on Tuesday 21st February. Sometimes called Mardi Gras in other parts of the world.

[https://
www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/
residents/energy/
home-energy/
council-schemes](https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/energy/home-energy/council-schemes)

Eligible residents are encouraged to apply.

Footpath Maintenance

As you'll have read in the December Murmurs, the footpath, affectionately known as "Footpath 7", linking Ollershaw Lane and Chapel Street has sadly been allowed to become neglected. The parish council is working with Peter Atkinson of CWAC to try and get this path re-opened. The footpath officer from CWaC has agreed to deal with our three main concerns:

1. The overhanging branches, the undergrowth and brambles.
2. The flooding at the Marston end of the path.
3. Make suitable entrances at both ends of the path to avoid fly tipping. Recently someone has dumped lumps of soil at the Wincham end.

It used to be a well used path linking canal walks and hopefully can be so again.

It is vital that we report footpath blockages as soon as they appear and don't allow paths to become overgrown.



February

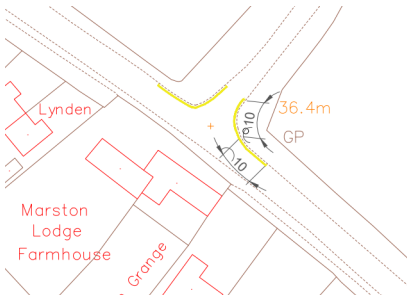
February, full of fun

Snowflakes surprising the sun

Wind whistles wildly

Fragrant flowers form mildly

Marinela Reka



Yellow Lines

As a result of the popularity of Earles Lane as a place to park cars for access to Pickmere Lake during the summertime the council have decided to take some action.

Shortly they will be drawing yellow lines to prevent parking near the junction with Marston Lane.

Voter ID

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voter to show **photo ID** when voting at a polling station. The new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local, town and parish elections on Thursday, 4th May 2023.

Many electors may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. Any of the following can be used.

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call their helpline on: 0800 328 0280.

If an elector doesn't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or they are not sure whether the photo ID still looks like them, then they can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. Electors can apply for this at

www.voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk

Alternatively, a paper application form can be completed and then sent to Democratic Services for processing.

Any residents who have any questions can contact Democratic Services team via email at:

elreg@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

or call: 01244 977084

Lambing

Polite reminder to all dog owners and walkers to keep to the footpaths and keep dogs on leads when crossing fields with livestock. Even if you are certain your dog will not attack livestock, a loose dog can be extremely distressing to them.

Please also be aware that fields are growing crops and are not open access to be walked across or dog toilets. Please pick up after your dog. The countryside is for everyone to enjoy but it also produces our food and needs respect.

Plea from our Ward Councillor

Hello all dog owners it would be very helpful if you fitted a letter cage behind your letter boxes or stopped it up and provided an outside wall box for post. The law changed in 2020 and there can be heavy fines when those delivering post etc. to your house results in being bitten by your dog. Having just experienced such an incident where the dog bit the top part of my finger off, it would be much appreciated if every precaution could be taken. Many thanks.

Lynn Gibbon
Councillor for Marbury Ward

Lambing Season
Please walk your
dog responsibly
Keep to footpaths
Keep dogs on leads

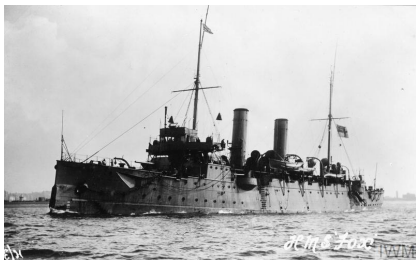
Folk Dance Club

We have received a flyer inviting residents to a regular folk dance in Middlewich. Some of our residents may wish to try this, see details on the flyer on the back page, but we realise it is some distance to travel on a regular basis.

We wondered whether there was any local interest for setting up something similar in the Church Hall in Marston?

English Country Dance is an excellent way to exercise both body and mind. It is a fun, social evening which provides a welcome break from the rush of our working day or an activity to look forward to when retirement looms - and it can open many other doors!

If this is you then contact councillor Angela Johnson (email at the back of this newsletter) and we'll make it happen.



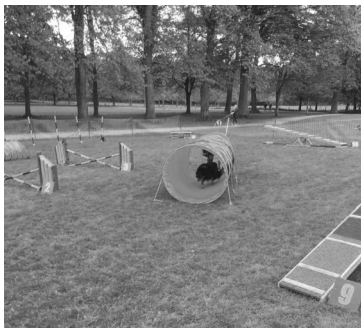
H.M.S. Fox at the Church Hall

On Tuesday 7th February (10AM-12PM) we are welcoming Mark Relf to give a talk on HMS Fox, a Victorian cruiser and her 6 campaigns (it includes a bit about Lawrence of Arabia). HMS Fox was a cruiser built in 1893 for tropical climates and served of the coasts of Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Saudi Arabia, Mesopotamia and Russia. Mark will talk about these areas and the men involved.

You may remember Mark did a very interesting talk on War medals and the story of one of Marston's WW1 casualties. Mark is a military and naval researcher and collector of medals relating to HMS Fox, long serving members of the Royal Navy and the 9th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment.

Defibrillator

The new defibrillator is now available at the Church Hall. It has been sited on the south wall overlooking the graveyard. Call 999 to obtain the access code.



Marbury Park Dog Activity Club

If you haven't already discovered this club, is a fun activity event run in Marbury Park for charity. Any dog, young or old, large or small can take part for a small donation to that months animal charity. Find them on Facebook for more information.

Some dates for your diaries

Sunday 5th Feb..... Scent work day with a "Follow the sausage trail".

Sunday 5th March...Games Day.

Sunday 2nd April...Doggy Derby.

Sunday 6th May....Three Events Day.

The usual agility and flyball will be available.

All welcome between 11am-3pm.



February Quiz



- How many league titles have Manchester United won?
(Not including the three champions league titles)
- What is the name of Gigi Hadid's famous big sister?
- How tall is Blackpool Tower?
A) 158m B) 178m C) 198m
- How many eyes does a spider have?
- What was the first Marvel movie ever made?
- Which famous actor plays The Godfather
a.k.a Vito Corleone?
- When was the late Queen's official birthday?
- What designer famously makes red soled shoes?
- What was the name of the UK's first ever newspaper?
- Which Star Wars character is best known for the line "I am your father"?

Word Search

- Beauty Hope
- Blessing Joy
- Brighten Kind
- Cheer Love
- Gladness Peaceful
- Goodness Smile
- Happy Tender

V	C	Q	G	L	A	D	N	E	S	S	C
Z	I	Z	U	T	E	N	D	E	R	D	H
B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G	T	B	F	E
E	M	U	F	H	W	G	O	P	G	D	E
V	U	G	O	O	D	N	E	S	S	U	R
X	B	R	I	G	H	T	E	N	G	P	S
O	L	O	V	E	O	H	A	P	P	Y	M
J	Y	K	H	D	P	U	N	E	R	P	I
O	M	H	Y	B	E	A	U	T	Y	N	L
Y	N	W	R	F	Z	O	K	I	N	D	E
Y	B	B	P	L	E	A	S	A	N	T	K
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In the Garden

Gardening in February



Lengthening days tempt keen gardeners in the village back out again. In Marston there is still time to plant trees, hedges and shrubs before they resume growing in the spring.

You can also plant bare rooted fruit trees and soft fruits. If it is too wet and cold for gardening, sit back and use the time to plan for the coming year. Why not have a look at other gardens in your area to see what grows well and looks good at this time of year?

If you have a well-established flower border and want to increase the amount of flowers at no cost, you can divide perennials such as hardy geraniums and asters. These will have formed new growth under last year's leaves. If you dig these up carefully and split them in two, you can then replant both. They'll do best if you add a little compost to the ground first.

Very early bulbs will now be through, including snowdrops, crocuses and early daffodils. If you want to plant some for next year, note in your diary now to buy and plant bulbs in the autumn.

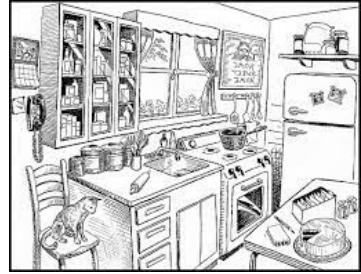
If you grow winter jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) for its bright yellow flowers through December and January, it's now the right time to cut back flowered shoots to strong buds after flowering. You can also buy them now to plant against a wall or fence to provide some winter colour for next year. Other shrubs you might like to try for winter flowers include: witch hazel (best in acid soils), *Viburnum bodnantense* and *Daphne mezereum*.

If you like grasses, one that looks good in a winter border is *Stipa calamagrostis*. If you leave it after it's flowered, its tawny seed-heads look great in frosty weather. You can then cut it back in March or April when new leaves appear. Any seed-heads at this time of year will provide welcome food for birds.

Recipe Corner

Three recipes for you this month, please do try them if you can and let me know what you think of them.

At the recent hotpot lunch at the Church Hall one of our residents, Jackie, brought this Almond Tart which a lot of people enjoyed.



Jackie's Almond Tart

Ingredients

1 Pre-cooked pastry case
[Supermarket]
Raspberry seedless jam
[enough to cover the
bottom of pastry case]
4 tbsps oats
4 oz sugar
4 oz margarine
1 egg
almond essence
[to taste]

Method

Spread jam evenly over base of pastry case.
Melt margarine and sugar in a pan.
Add oats, stir, then remove the pan from the hob.
Beat the egg and add this to the mixture and stir well [do not boil]
Add almond essence.
Pour the mixture on the jam in the pastry case.
Bake in moderate oven 20-30 minutes [or until set]. Enjoy!

Another of our residents, Miriam, sent us this warming winter recipe to try. This can be adapted to any root vegetable.

Miriam's Easy Curried Parsnip Soup

Ingredients

2 tsp butter
1 ½ pints stock vegetable
1 large onion chopped
1-1½ lbs parsnips roughly
chopped

1 large clove garlic chopped
2 tsp mild curry powder
or 1 tsp med curry powder
1 tsp grated ginger (optional)
Salt and pepper to taste
To finish 2 tbs double cream



Method

Melt butter in a large pot. Add onions, parsnips, Ginger and garlic and cook gently until onion is softened but not brown. Stir in curry powder and cook for 1 minute more.

Add stock. Bring to boil, then simmer approx 20 minutes until parsnips are soft, add salt and pepper.

Let soup cool a little then puree in a blender or processor (I use a hand blender).

Add cream. Reheat gently and serve. Chunky bread goes particularly well with this rustic soup. Enjoy

Top Tip : no need to peel parsnips just make sure well cleaned and roughly chopped, all the goodness and taste of parsnips sits below the skin.

The following recipe was the one used to make the vegetarian stew at the Christmas get together, Julie's special recipe that I understand was well received.

Julie's Wholesome Easy-Peasy Winter Vegetarian Stew

Ingredients

1 red onion chopped
2 garlic cloves, thinly sliced and finely chopped
2 peppers (either red, yellow, orange or green), seeded and sliced into strips
1 courgette, sliced into about ½ inch thick slices
One large can of chick peas
One large tin of chopped tomatoes
3-4 mushrooms sliced (optional)
3 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
1 teaspoon dried oregano

Method

Combine all of the ingredients into a slow cooker and cook on a low heat for 4-6 hours, depending on how firm you like your vegetables to be

Add salt and pepper to taste

Serve with crusty bread

*If you don't have a slow cooker you can cook this in a pan on the top of your cooker on a very low setting/gas for about 1 hour or until vegetables are cooked to your liking

**If you like a bit of spice you can add chilli flakes/fresh chillies or chilli powder

Useful Contacts

Parish Councillors	Marion Potts	CHAIR 07842894733	marion.potts703@gmail.com
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	Dave Collier	07901810558	davecollier87@hotmail.co.uk
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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 8am-7pm and Sat 9am-12:30pm		
	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	

Music @ St Mary's Church

On Saturday 11th February at 7pm in St. Mary's Great Budworth there will be an informal concert.

The Golubenko family from Lviv have been part of our family since May last year. Dmitry is a professional trumpet player and has agreed to play for us before he heads away with work.

We'd also like to invite anyone musical, who would like to perform, to join us. If you would like to take part can you contact Christina on ckdjwestwell@tiscali.co.uk or 07870 687 304.

There will be refreshments provided and a retiring collection for Mid-Cheshire Food Bank and Save Ukraine.

Save Ukraine is a Ukrainian Non-Governmental Organisation which evacuates people from War Zones. It's set up a network of hubs for internationally displaced people, provides food packages and modular houses. It also works with parents whose children have been deported to Russia. It will take place two weeks before the Anniversary of the Invasion of Ukraine so it would be a time to remember.

Hedgehogs

We'd welcome any photo, drawing or story about hedgehogs. Please send these directly to the editor.

Quiz answers

1. 13
2. Bella Hadid
3. 158m.
4. Eight eyes
5. Iron Man
6. Marlon Brando
7. 11th June
8. Christian Louboutin
9. The Daily Courant
10. Darth Vader

Close approach

On the 31st January the Moon and Mars will make a close approach, passing within a mere 6 arcminutes of each other. When I tell you that the moon is about 30 arcminutes across you'll see that this is very close. From some parts of the world, the Moon will actually pass in front of Mars, creating what's called a lunar occultation. The Moon, waxing gibbous, will be 10 days old.

From Marston the pair will be visible all night until they set at approximately 04:35 AM. At that time both objects will lie in the constellation Taurus.

We just need a clear sky.

Where is this?

Where Dark Lane turns into Hield Lane

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



*A month in waiting
Spring is lurking underground
Bulbs soon to show off*



Have fun and keep your body and mind fit
Come English Country Dancing
on your own or with friends
at
Kindred Spirits
Folk Dance Club
We usually meet on the 2nd and 4th
Monday of each month 7.30 to 9.30 -
no meeting week 4 in July or in August
at
Victoria Hall
Civic Way
Middlewich CW16 9BX



For more details visit our website at www.kindredspsritsfolkdc.co.uk

Marston Parish Council