

Marston MURMURS



September 2023



The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

A Word from the Editor

Soaked Summer Shenanigans: A Damp Delight!

Greetings, dear Marstonites!

As the rain-soaked curtains finally fall on what can only be described as a summer that left us all a tad more amphibious than we bargained for, we bring you the September edition of the Marston Murmurs, dripping with stories, sprinkled with updates, and just a hint of irony. Yes, dear residents, the season of soggy barbecues and impromptu lakeside picnics is coming to a close.



We might not have mastered the art of summoning sunshine, but we've certainly learned how to turn on the style in a pair of wellies and turn a brolly into a fashion statement. Our gardens might have turned into watercolour landscapes and our lawns into marshlands, but let's face it, Marston has never looked more picturesque. If there's a silver lining to a sky that's perpetually the shade of "soggy slate," it's the sense of camaraderie that emerges when everyone's in the same boat—literally!

From the classic black to the daringly transparent, umbrellas have been the ultimate accessory this season. Our fashion aficionados have mastered the art of umbrella coordination, turning the streets into a runway of vibrant colours and patterns that even the rainbows would envy.

In a bid to coax out that elusive sun, the village needs to precipitate a Sun Dance Social—an evening of misty music, drizzly dancing, and wishing really hard for some dry weather. A bit like a rain dance but done backwards. Remember, it's all in good fun, and even if the skies remain stubbornly overcast, we'll dance like nobody's watching (because they're all under their umbrellas anyway).

Cover picture

Best Kept Garden Gold Medal Winner, Mrs. Knop, Marston Lane. More details can be seen on page 13.

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday 13th September**. Proceedings start promptly at 18:45. If you intend to attend please let the clerk know in advance. Please be early.

The 100% Electric Mobile Library

CWAC's new mobile library vehicle has launched. The new vehicle is fully electric and therefore much cleaner and greener.

The new vehicle is fully accessible and includes a hearing loop. It also has other sustainable features including solar panels and LED lighting. Other improvements include an awning for summer activities and on board WiFi and digital access for customers.

The new vehicle offers a wide range of stock including adult and children's books as well as audio books. It also provides access to the Library Management System, enabling customers to borrow books from across the library service and to make reservations, as well as update their library accounts.

The mobile Library is driven by Ian Bebbington and Jane Farrell is the customer representative. Staff can also provide online Council information and a Council enquiry service. Library members have free access to a wide range of online resources, including eBooks, via the libraries' webpage. The library stops monthly at Ashwood Park and is next there on Tuesday 12th September 14:55.



Where is this?

You know Marston well but do you know where this is?

Community Asset



An asset of community value is a building or piece of land that is used to further the social well-being or interests of the local community. Examples of community assets include: village shops. pubs. community centres.

We have designated the Salt Barge Inn as a community asset in our village and are now proposing to renew this designation for a further five years.



Question Time

Back in July Esther McVey M.P. wrote to 500 residents of Marston (and some in Wincham) inviting them to a surgery at the Church Hall. There are many villages in the constituency and so we were quite privileged to have this time with our M.P. The hall was full and questions were asked on many subjects including :

- Why she didn't attend parliament for certain votes?
- Hs2
- Local flooding
- United Utilities
- Social housing
- Speeding
- Planning applications taking too long

And many others. A lot of subjects covered in just one hour! Our thanks to Esther McVey for making time for our residents.



Esther McVey M.P.

Footpath Overlooked

Since October 2022 the Parish Council have been working with the council footpaths officer, trying to get the footpath open between Ollershaw Lane and Chapel Street.

At one point during the springtime it was passable with care but now that the weeds have grown up and the rains in July caused flooding of the Marston end this is no longer the case.

We're still working with the footpaths officer and hoping for a positive outcome sometime soon.

Cheshire West & Chester Council
Here to help
How to access our services

Do it online
Online is the quickest way to access Council services

- Visit our website: cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- Support issues through our app: Visit the app store and search Cheshire West and Chester
- Set up a digital account with us: Go to my account in the top of our website
- Access support to get online: Visit our website for digital guides on a wide range of Council buildings

Call us
Ring our contact centre
Call 0300 123 8123. Available Monday to Friday 9am - 7pm

Visit us
Book an appointment to see us: Call 0300 123 8123 to see a dedicated customer service adviser, with a range of times and locations available to suit you.
Resident Assistance Points are available in some Council buildings and libraries. Here you can drop-in to access a public telephone and computers for Council business and seek guidance from our staff about Council services.

Council buildings (supported by specialist customer service advisers):
Chester: Town Hall, Town Square
Eldersmore Park: The Porch
Northwich: Information Centre
Winsford: Wyvern House

Libraries
Eldersmore Park Library
Frodsham Library
Heaton Library
Winsford Library

Scan the QR code for Resident Assistance Point locations and opening times

Cheshire West and Chester

Planning Permissions

We're aware of an increase in applications for permitted development barns in the area.

These barns can't store anything other than agricultural equipment or grain etc. so as well as you we're keeping our eyes open.

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



Macmillans Coffee Morning

Join us on Tuesday 12th September at the Church Hall, Ollershaw Lane from 10:00 till noon for this year's MacMillan Coffee Morning.

Along with the usual teas and coffees we will be having cakes, quiz, raffle and Millie will be selling her beautiful handmade cards too.

Please give generously, with your support Macmillan Nurses do incredible work and provide support to people and families suffering with cancer.

Donations for the raffle can be handed to any of our Parish Councillors or brought along on the day. Also cakes or biscuits for every one to enjoy or give a donation and take home.

If you are unable to join us but would like to donate there are QR codes on the posters to scan with your phones to donate or pass a donation in an envelope to a councillor to bring along for you.

Neighbourhood Plan

Following the inaugural meeting in the summer the next meeting to discuss the neighbourhood plan will take place at the Salt Barge, 18:30 on Thursday 7th September.

Anyone interested in how the village needs to develop over the coming years should come along.



Available for hire!

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

Keep our Village Clean & Tidy

Let's keep our village beautiful by being responsible pet owners. Please clean up after your dogs to maintain cleanliness and hygiene. Always carry waste bags, use designated bins, and set a positive example.

Share this message and help us create a cleaner Marston for all.

Leaks and Potholes Take Centre Stage in Village Performance

The water leak on the junction of Fernlea Road and Manor Avenue has been inconvenient in causing difficulties for vehicles turning on the junction. On the plus side it was next to the large pot hole that has been there for some time, so we finally have that filled in. Thank you United Utilities for a job well done.

Going Potty over Potholes

Potholes do seem to be a big issue with many local motorists/cyclists at the moment so this is what the Highways Department tell us:

Safety Inspectors regularly inspect roads and footpaths for dangerous potholes in line with their safety inspection code of practice.

Also, Network Stewards investigate enquiries and concerns about potholes raised by our customers including Councillors, Parish Councillors, and the public.

We prioritise all potholes so that the most dangerous ones are repaired either the next day or within 5 days and for those that do not meet the criteria we have routine maintenance and resurfacing schemes in place

The majority of our pothole repairs are 50mm deep, cut out and fill, hot material permanent repairs.

This involves cutting around the pothole and breaking away the loose material, then refilling with hot tarmac and compacting. A bitumen over-banding is used around the joints to help protect from ingress of water.

On the odd occasion in emergency situations, we ask for a temporary fill and compact with cold tarmac, which is used to make safe until a permanent repair can be programmed.

Aquatic Ladders

A strange sight has greeted travellers along Ollershaw Lane recently. Ladders protruding out of the flash on the western side of the road!

Could it be the Adelaide Flash Monster trying to escape?

Sorry to disillusion you but as you will know this was the site of the last rock salt mine in the area. The land subsided in 1928, taking all the buildings with it.

We understand that the local anglers have been snagging their lines on the remains of the old mine buildings that are still below the waterline there.

As a consequence the mine buildings are slowly being removed/reduced. The ladders are an aid in that process.

No conspiracy theory needed.



Speeding on Marston Lane

At the July parish council (PC) meeting four members of the public were present to explain to us about speeding on Marston Lane. In particular 3 serious accidents in the last 6 months along the stretch of road outside their properties. This has resulted in a dead dog, a near miss for the owner, 2 cars written off and damage to property (including a telegraph pole). They're concerned about the safety of their children and pets as many vehicles are not keeping to the 50 mph speeding limit.

The PC advised that they are in regular communication with Highways about speeding and traffic issues within the village and that there had been a meeting scheduled for earlier in the month that had to be postponed. This meeting will now go ahead sometime in September. The PC pointed out that highways have stated in the past that their hands are tied as not much can be done until there are fatalities and obviously no-one wants it to come to that.

The clerk advised that she will contact the PCSO to get a new traffic survey carried out. The PC stated that they are looking at whether getting the speed limit reduced on Marston Lane is a viable option.

Other possibilities were discussed (e.g. a petition) but we'll come to those after the traffic survey.

Message from our PCSO

We have received an email from traffic management stating that they did attend with the speed van (yellow in colour) on Saturday 22nd July.

The van was positioned in the lay-by on the A559 in Marston. Over a 3 hour period one driver was caught doing 58mph.

The van will attend at the location again.

Defibrillator

We would like to extend our thanks to Harris Gas who were so kind recently to make a donation to the parish council to go towards the new defibrillator.

Home Safety Grant

Grants are available to home owners to carry out urgent repairs. For example, installation of a new boiler where the current boiler is unfit for use and could potentially cause serious risk of harm to the occupier. Applicants are subject to the following eligibility criteria:

- applicant has an owner's interest in the property
- category one hazards present (bands A and B)
- maximum £5000 subject to means testing
- grant must be repaid if applicant moves within five years.

Grants are available from the Home Improvement Agency.

John Dwyer,
police
commissioner



Pickmere Lake

The Parish Council were represented at a meeting with John Dwyer recently concerning the continuing issues at Pickmere Lake. The main points from the meeting were:

- John Dwyer is organising a meeting in October with all interested parties, including representatives from CWaC, Cheshire East, police from both areas, surrounding parish councils, local land owners and residents.
- Main issues are antisocial behaviour, accessing private land and parking.
- Best solution thought to be to disincentive people from coming to the lake. E.g. plough or fence the field. Leaving the rubbish is not working as swimmers and scouts are still picking it up. There are on going talks with the land owner .
- The problem's changing. The yellow lines and ticketing are helping the parking problem but now people, esp. teenagers are bussing in or being dropped off.
- The police proactively look at the weather and a dispersal order can be issued at any time.
- Police want residents to report any antisocial behaviour on 101 (an average waiting time of less than 5 mins). This helps with statistics. Anything dangerous use 999.

Save on your food shop

Some ideas for you to consider:

Check your cupboards, fridge, and freezer and **eat before you go shopping** so you don't buy items you don't need.

If you go grocery shopping in the evening, you can usually find lots of good options in the reduced section for a bargain price. Look for the yellow 'Reduced' stickers, particularly on long shelf-life cupboard products such as dried pasta, canned vegetables etc. that can be kept for when needed.

Try own brands or value brands in supermarkets as these are normally cheaper and can be just as tasty.

Reduce your meat intake – veg is much quicker to cook and often costs less, so fill up on vegetables, pulses, and lentils. You'll be helping the environment by reducing your meat consumption too because meat produces lots of CO₂ emissions.

Grow your own fruit and veg if you can. Sometimes all you need is a jar and some water – spring onions will regrow if the bases are put in some water so you can use them all over again.

Try apps which show heavily reduced fresh, dry and cooked foods that you can collect in your local area. On 'Olio' people can advertise food that they won't be able to use so you can take it off their hands for free. on 'Too Good To Go,' you can get surprise food bags from shops and restaurants for low prices – perfect for an affordable, mystery treat.



Chair Exercise Class

The feedback we're getting from the exercise class every Thursday at 11:00 is **very positive**.

The participants are enjoying the friendly, lighthearted exercise atmosphere. Tell your friends and neighbours to come along and try it, it's open to all. You don't even have to live in Marston.

Classes are at Marston Church Hall, starting at 11:00 and cost just £4.

Participants Breathless & Smiling!

Some anonymous feedback from the new exercise class:

"Josh, our PT, is lovely, nice legs too!! This class is great fun and an excellent way of meeting new people.

Oh, the exercise is good too LOL"

For the more poetic

Thursday's joy blooms bright,
Lighthearted exercise smiles,
Open hearts unite.



Resident has a near-miss

Hi there. Knowing everyone's concern about the hgv's coming thru the village I just had a very scary moment walking along the pavement between the Neumann's flash entrance and The Avenue. The wagon in the photo was literally about 2ft away from me as it passed. If I were one of the elderly and more frail villagers the draught from it passing could have floored them!

The picture highlights how narrow the pavement is and how narrow the road is demonstrating the perils of them passing through here

The wagon was stationery when I caught up to get the picture as it had to give way to another wagon coming the opposite way.



If you or any other residents encounter similar scares or issues then do please keep the parish council informed.

If we don't know about it we can't get anything done about it.

Telephone & emails, page 14

Miriam's Book of the Month

The Salt Path by Raynor Winn

The day after Raynor and Moth found out they were going to lose the Welsh farm where they had brought up their two children, a doctor told Moth that he had a rare and incurable degenerative brain disease. Within days the bailiffs came knocking and they were homeless.

So what do you do when you're in your 50s, have lost all your worldly possessions and been diagnosed with a terminal illness?

Naturally, you decide to walk the South West Coast Path, from Minehead in Somerset, through north Devon, Cornwall and south Devon, to Poole in Dorset, via Land's End. A 630 mile walk, equivalent to climbing Mount Everest four times.

"Are you mad?" asks their daughter, and as they set off, each with a heavy rucksack, Raynor agrees that they are "probably insane for thinking we could walk this path". But as their world collapses around them, the coastal path gives them a purpose and offers them the desperate hope that on the way they can find some kind of future.

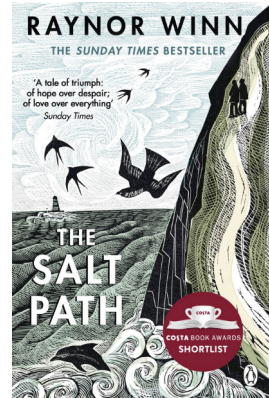
Their journey is filled with as many ups and downs as the undulating cliff-edge route. Yet the freedom of wild camping, swimming in the moonlit sea and surviving on fudge and pasties allows them to come to terms with their situation and learn to hope again: "Like the windblown trees along our route, we had been re-formed by the elements."

Filled with wry humour, this is a wonderfully uplifting and touching book, which was shortlisted for the 2018 Costa biography award.

I really enjoyed this read and felt that I was walking with them. Some of the coastal paths I know.

I also have some inside information that its being made into a film.

Miriam





Healthy New Budworth Estate

You may know this estate better as Higher Marston these days. If only you'd bought your healthy house there a bit earlier! A snip at £425.

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MAKE A NOTE OF THIS!—

From and including JUNE 23rd to 25th, next, a Representative of The Manor Building Co., will be present at this Estate and will be prepared to meet prospective purchasers or tenants.

During this period, on receipt of a post card addressed to the Manager, The Manor Building Co., New Budworth Estate, Near Northwich, stating time and number of persons, a car will be sent anywhere within a radius of 15 miles, to bring you to the Estate and take you home again.

You will be under no obligation to buy, for we only wish to bring this Estate to your notice, so you may never have considered living at

WONDERFUL NEW BUDWORTH

TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY AND MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW.

In the Kitchen

No recipes from residents this month so try this:

Perfect Toast - Method

The key to slicing bread is, with a sharp serrated knife; use gentle, rapid sawing movements and don't push down too hard on the loaf.

Cut the bread into slices about 1cm thick. The crusts can be on or off, depending on how you like them. Pre-heat the grill for at least 10 minutes before making the toast, turning it to its highest setting. Place the bread on the grill rack and position the tray 10cm from the heat source. Allow the bread to toast on both sides to your own preferred degree of pale or dark golden brown.

While that's happening, keep an eye on it and don't wander far away. When the toast is done, remove it immediately to a toast rack. Freshly made toast contains steam, and if you place it in a vertical position, in which the air is allowed to circulate, the steam escapes and the toast becomes crisp and crunchy. Putting it on to a plate traps the steam underneath, making it soggy. Always eat toast as soon as possible after that, never make it ahead of time. Always use good bread, because the better the bread the better the toast. It is also preferable if the bread is a couple of days old.

Perfect Toast - Ingredients

Brown or white bread, cut 1cm thick

September Quiz

1. The name September comes from the Latin word 'septem', which means what?
2. Which two zodiac signs occur in the month of Sept.?
3. True or false. September is the only month with the same number of letters in its name as the number of the month?
4. The Anglo-Saxons called the month Gerstmonath, after which crop usually harvested in September which they used to make beer?
5. September's birthstone is which precious gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum?
6. In 1752, September had only 19 days in the UK as which calendar was changed to the Gregorian calendar?
7. In the US, which holiday is observed on the first Monday of September?
8. Which biennial sporting event was postponed in 2001 after the 11th September terrorist attacks on New York City?
9. Which famous festival, held annually in Munich, Germany, is a folk festival running from mid- or late September to the first Sunday in October?
10. The birth of Queen Elizabeth I happened on 17 September, 1533, can you name her mother?
11. What did Robbie Williams switch on in 2010, the Bee Gees in 1995, and Red Rum in 1977?
12. September is a 1987 drama film modelled on Anton Chekhov's 1899 play Uncle Vanya - who wrote and directed it?
13. Which American said: "My favourite poem is the one that starts 'Thirty days hath September' because it actually tells you something."?
14. Which British Prime Minister exclaimed on the 30 September, 1938, "I believe it is peace for our time"?
15. On the 9th September, 1513, James IV of Scotland is killed at which battle?
16. What name is given for the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, celebrated on 29 September?
17. On 7th September 1838, which daughter of the keeper of Longstone lighthouse risked her life in a small rowing boat to rescue nine shipwrecked people?
18. On the 13th of September 1902, Harry Jackson became the first person in Britain convicted on what sort of evidence?
19. Every September the Egremont Crab Fair in Cumbria is home to which face pulling competition?
20. Which festival in the UK is about giving thanks for a successful crop yield over the year as winter starts to approach?



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In the Garden

As we're going to press the annual best kept garden awards are being presented in the village. There are photographs on the front and back covers:

Gold award: Mr. & Mrs. Knop, Marston Lane

Silver award: Mr. & Mrs. Evans, Juniper Close

Bronze award: Mr. & Mrs. Pierce,
Ollershaw Lane

Highly commended: Mr. & Mrs. Warwick,
Hornbeam Drive, Mr. Ocklestone,
Marston Lane, Ms. Tonkin & Ms. Faulkner,
Manor Avenue and also Mr. & Mrs. Dunn,
Fernlea Road.



Cllr. Nixon presents the 2023 best kept garden award to Mrs. Knop

There were some others in Fernlea Road and Vale View and Hornbeam Drive that came very close. Our congratulations then to all, especially Mr. & Mrs. Knop! Well done!

We encourage all residents to spruce their gardens up for next year's awards. Gardening is relaxing, good for your mental health and enables you to improve the ambience of the village.

The September Garden

As summer wanes, Marston's gardens offer September charm. Admire late blooms like dahlias and asters. Harvest apples, pears; relish homegrown produce.



Savour traditional afternoon tea amidst Cheshire greenery. Migratory species are on the move, be observant and have your binoculars ready. Capture changing hues through photography.

Have you thought about going on a garden workshop or learning about plant care? Enjoy picnics, explore early autumn foliage. Read, sketch in serene corners. Look out for garden events like concerts, exhibitions, beer festivals. Embrace this transitional beauty, as summer fades and autumn approaches. A perfect time for a garden stroll.

Useful Contacts

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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	
Church Hall Hire	1. Angie Kemmett	07716565038	
	2. Dave Collier	07901810558	
	3. Angela Johnson	07729910045	

Slipping into Autumn

This year the autumnal equinox is at 01:58 B.S.T. on 23rd September. This is also the first autumn day in Marston and across the Northern hemisphere.

It's the time when the Sun "crosses" the Earth's equator going from the Northern to the Southern hemisphere.

Did you Know?

Did you know that honey never spoils? Archaeologists have found pots of honey in ancient Egyptian tombs that are over 3,000 years old and still perfectly edible. Thanks to its low water content and acidic pH, honey creates an environment hostile to bacteria and other microorganisms, making it virtually immortal.

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.

Stop Press

The Parish Council have secured an award from Freedom Fibre Fund to enhance the wildlife and biodiversity in the village. We'll have more details in the next edition of Murmurs.

Ian's Joke of the Month

Did you know, if you get pregnant in the Amazon, it's next day delivery?!



Where is this?

The gas "substation" at the junction of Hall Lane with Marston Lane.

Answers to the Quiz

1. Seven. (It was the seventh month of the old Roman calendar.)
2. Virgo (until September 22) and Libra (September 23 onwards)
3. True. (Nine letters and the ninth month.)
4. Barley
5. Sapphire
6. Julian
7. Labor Day
8. Ryder Cup
9. The Oktoberfest
10. Anne Boleyn
11. Blackpool illuminations (always annually switched on in September)
12. Woody Allen
13. Groucho Marx
14. Neville Chamberlain
15. The Battle of Flodden
16. Michaelmas Day
17. Grace Darling
18. Fingerprint evidence
19. The Gurning World Championships
20. Harvest Festival

Great British Food Festival

On the 23rd & 24th September, Arley Hall will be host to the Great British Food Festival.

A family day out that has something for everyone, from food, to live music, kids activities and even something for the dogs! There really are so many things to do in Arley for this year's big food festival.

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

Best Kept Gardens Awards, 2023



Details on page 13