



Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

March 2023



A Word from the Editor

*March brings breezes loud and shrill
To stir the dancing daffodil*

It's March! According to the Met Office that means its Spring already! They only say that to make their statistics easier to calculate of course. Spring doesn't officially start until the Vernal Equinox but we're nearly there. This year the Vernal Equinox falls on 20th March, to be precise at 21:24 GMT, and after that the hours of daylight exceed the hours of darkness each day. Be sure to raise a toast at that time!

With so much grief and sadness across the world at the moment with wars, pandemics, global warming, earthquakes, National Health crises (the list could go on) its good to at least have the winter behind us and to look forward to lighter and eventually warmer days ahead.

*Rise from winter's nap
Stretch to feel the sun's warm rays
Spring is among us*



Mr. Mark Relf

H.M.S. Fox

7th February, Coffee morning enjoyed a very interesting talk from local historian Mr. Mark Relf on HMS Fox and her history.

Mark brought along some of his collection of medals relating to the Royal Navy service men who served on board.



An Image from the Archives

The mine opened in 1850, named after the much-loved queen of William IV, Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen. The owners, Messrs Joseph Verdin and sons, realised that they had both a productive salt mine and a tourist attraction. Local people were soon being lowered in the four-man "hoppet" to the depths of the mine to gaze in awe at the unreal scenes of glittering crystals, dark recesses and dancing shadows. On occasions an orchestra played, usually a local orchestra, but sometimes a visiting military band.

In 1844 Emperor Nicholas of Russia visited the mine with The Royal Society of England, "on which occasion it was splendidly illuminated with upwards of 10,000 lights, and a banquet was provided at the bottom."

A trip to the bottom of a local mine also became a special occasion for local people, with up to 1,000 visitors in a single day. They were each given a candle, and invited to 'promenade', and explore the eerie dark tunnels and caverns. "When large parties are invited, it is customary to entertain them to music, trumpets, explosions, the magic lantern, etc., the effects of which are as curious as they are novel....". The great cavern, over 30 feet in height, was "thoroughly illuminated,...long 'streets' being fitted up with stalls and refreshments bars. Music is also plentifully supplied and as many as 400 persons have been known to join in one dance in the crystal halls." (J J Manley 1878, quoted in Notes on Northwich Brine Area 1931, Vol.3, The Salt Union).

Sadly, in 1928, the Adelaide mine, then being in full production, succumbed to the nemesis of many Northwich salt-mines – water. Although the shafts were roofed and protected from rain water, seepage through increasingly large fissures soon ate away at the workings, draining into the caverns and dissolving the massive pillars, until the roofs were undermined and collapsed. The four ponies which hauled the trucks and bogeys could not be rescued, and a Mr. Ashbrook was sent down the mine to humanely destroy the animals as the floodwaters rose.

The Adelaide Works, looking north.



Church Hall

The issues with the heating at the Church Hall have been resolved, so it is once again 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

Cost of Living Crisis

The council, CWAC, are producing an online newsletter to help you cope with the cost of living crisis. If you are struggling and would like to sign up to this visit this website:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCHESHIREWESTANDCHESTER/subscriber/new?qs=UKCHESHIREWESTANDCHESTER_8

Unmarked White Vans

Residents in Fernlea Road recently contacted the parish council regarding an unmarked white van and two young men doing something they deemed suspicious.

A parish councillor spoke to the men and they said they were installing Freedom Fibre broadband cables.

The residents have been contacted and reassured.

The parish council have sent an email to Freedom Fibre regarding working in rural areas after dark without informing residents and using an unmarked van, causing stress to older people.

Local Recipes

Sorry but there were no recipes submitted this month.

If you have a family recipe that you really like why not share it with us? Just send the ingredients and method to the editor. Let me clarify that, send the details to the editor, not the actual ingredients!

Easter is around the corner, maybe you have a Simnel Cake or Hot Cross Bun that you think we should

try?

The Triangle

We are trying to promote "The Triangle" as the gateway to our village and showcase it as well as we can. Daffodils are coming up and it should be looking lovely by the time you read this.

Recently we discovered that two CWAC trucks were parked on the Triangle. It appears that these people were contractors and unaware of our desire to keep our triangle as a special place.

The Highways department have been informed and are taking action.

If you notice anyone trying to park on the Triangle please make a note of registration numbers and report either to Highways or the local parish council.



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

Countryside Walks

On 7th March we welcome Mr. Neville Bester to our coffee morning at the Church Hall. He will have copies of his latest book for sale.

"Countryside Walks near Northwich" is a collection of 18 guided walks, all commencing within 10 miles of Northwich town centre. Each walk is presented as an OS map with a detailed description of the walk. The book is priced at £10.

Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to Cancer Research.

If you are unable to attend the coffee morning and would like a copy and can prepay any parish councillor, they can be asked to collect and deliver copies for you.

Senior Citizens Exercise Classes

A few years ago, pre-lockdown, the Parish Council

organised gentle exercise classes taken by a trained physiotherapist. These were mainly chair-based to help with Strength, Flexibility and Balance. If you would be interested in us organising a class again, please let a parish councillor know, either by phone, email or in person at the coffee morning, the pub exercising your hand, eye, mouth drink co-ordination or passing in the street.

Last time classes were popular & cost less than a price of a coffee and cake.



Soot Hill Protest March

The impact of the closure of Soot Hill in Barnton has been felt all around the area and even here in Marston.

The road has been closed in both directions since December 2021 after a retaining wall was damaged in a landslide, causing serious disruption for nearby residents and for people travelling between Warrington and Northwich.

According to CWAC the current timeline for the work, repairs will not be complete until late 2023, two years after the landslide occurred.





Last month there was a major protest march by residents and councillors planned to send a powerful message to the council.

The event was organised by Northwich town councillor Lee Siddall who invited Marston to send along a councillor to show support.



New surface on Ollershaw Lane


Workmen have recently carried out footway slurry sealing along Ollershaw Lane.

In plain English they have resurfaced the footpath.

Higher Marston Playground

Work started on the new play equipment on Higher Marston playground in February.

The old slide & climbing frame have been replaced. When complete we'll show some photos of it.



Area News

Quarterly Issue - January 2023

Cheshire Constabulary Performance Update January 2023

Response

6 minutes & 28 seconds
average time to answer non-emergency calls compared to over 10 minutes on the previous year

79%
of 999 emergency calls

85%
of emergency incidents

77%
of prompt incidents

Safeguarding

£1.5 million
- largest ever single amount for Safer Streets funding to further improve our VAWG approach

Safer Streets
Working together for even safer streets in Cheshire

Crime and Incidents

8000 DA arrests in 2022
Up by 100% on the previous year

20,000 Arrests made in 2022
Up by 50% on the previous year


7½ minutes
- the average time to attend GRADE 1 INCIDENTS

The number of DA offences charged has increased by 100%

Overall action taken rate:
10.8% **17.3%**

Outcomes
This data relates to the 12 months to the end of October 2022.


- Highest charge rate
- Highest charge rate
- Highest charge rate
- 4th highest charge rate
- 3rd highest charge rate



Mark Roberts QPM
Chief Constable
Cheshire Constabulary

Welcome to the first edition of our new quarterly newsletter for your area. These updates will give you detail on the performance of the force as a whole as well as looking at performance in your local area.

We have invested in our force control room and are making strong progress in how quickly we answer calls, as well as being excellent at getting officers to people when they need our help. We are also bringing more offenders to justice and protecting victims of crime. As ever there is always more to do and our aim is to give the people of Cheshire the best police service in the country and make the county a hostile environment for criminals.



Gareth Wrigley
Superintendent
Western Area

During the last quarter all of the Western Area have been working to deliver the priorities of the force, and as such have made some incredible headway.

Over the festive period we worked with partners on keeping our communities safe and have also seen the fruition of some incredible detective work in a number of serious and complex investigations. Moving into 2023 with the right culture and focus will be vital to us improving our performance in all areas and contributing to making Cheshire the best police force in the country. We are ready for the challenge of ensuring we keep our communities safe and deliver justice for victims.

Local Performance

Data from October to December 2022

	% Difference from 2021
16681 Number of Incidents	-5.7%
90.3% Grade 1 Attended in 15 mins	+3.8%
85.9% Grade 2 Attended in 60 mins	+0.7%
6523 Number of Crimes	-7.7%
18.7% % of Action Taken	+7.2%
599 Domestic Abuse Arrests	+2.6%
685 Number of Stop and Searches	+39%



Cheshire Constabulary

I know that some of you are interested in the trends and statistics of crime and how our local police force are dealing with them on our behalf.

The area commander of the Cheshire Constabulary has sent us this information.

Police Priorities

We have been informed by the Police Commissioner for Cheshire that the six key priorities for policing and crime in Cheshire are:

- Prevent and tackle crime
- Make Cheshire's roads safer
- Deliver justice for victims of crime
- Protect vulnerable & at-risk people
- Improve public confidence in policing
- Modernise our police service

PCSO Monthly Report (Jan.)

Our local PCSO Diana Wiggins has sent us this report about crimes committed in Marston recently:

- ASB - No incidents
- Burg Dwelling - No incidents
- Criminal Damage - No incidents
- Fraud - No incidents
- Suspicious behaviour - No incidents
- Theft - No incidents

Editor : Looks like we're living in a safe village.

CAT 9 Bus Service to be Discontinued?

One of our residents on Marston Lane has written to Esther McVey about the CAT 9 bus. She's had a reply quoting feedback from CWAC:

"Our transport team has confirmed that the current contract to support bus service CAT9 will end in July 2023, at the end of the academic year. We are currently gathering passenger data for the route and alternative operating models and funding options will be analysed. Whilst we are not yet in a position to confirm whether the service will continue beyond July 2023 the Council will be exploring what opportunities are available to maintain the service going forward."

We will let you know as this develops.

Hedgehogs

We are quite keen to see the village take care of the local wildlife and as you know we've got a "thing" for hedgehogs. Hedgehogs will be coming out of hibernation around now and so you may well start seeing them in the garden again.

If you are a budding artist perhaps you could draw or paint a picture of one seen in your garden. Perhaps you have an interesting story about hedgehogs?

Let us know. We'd be happy to include it in a future edition of Marston Murmurs.

Winnington Bridge Corridor

It's been announced that Winnington Bridge Corridor (the proposed 2nd bridge crossing) has **not** received funding from the Dept. for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities' Levelling Up Fund.

At the time of writing CWAC are actively seeking feedback from Government on the rationale for this negative decision.

March Quiz

1. Love Island is back on ITV2
- who won the show in 2021?
2. What is the most abundant gas in the Earth's atmosphere?
3. What is the capital city of Croatia?
4. In which year did Top Of The Pops end?
5. Who is Harry Potter's godfather?
6. What is a baby Baboon called?
7. What is Fe on a periodic table?
8. In which English county will you find the theme park Lightwater Valley?
9. What is Jay-Z's real name?
10. Which British Olympian has won the most gold medals?
11. How many series of Only Fools and Horses were made?
12. What alcohol is used when making an Old Fashioned cocktail?
13. Which London underground line has the most stations?
14. What is the world's smallest country?
15. What are the first three books of The Old Testament?
16. How many sides does a dodecahedron have?
17. What were the names of Henry VIII's six wives?
18. Banksy is most associated with which city?
19. What nationality was Charlie Chaplin?
20. What are the names of the five oceans?



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Parish Councillor Resigns

The Councillors of Marston Parish Council are sad to report that they have accepted the resignation of Julie Ledger and would like to thank Julie on behalf of the Council and residents of Marston for the valuable contribution Julie has made during her time as a Councillor.

Julie has contributed to community events, helped judge the front gardens competition and shared many of her favourite recipes in Marston Murmurs.

We wish her well and hope she enjoys what comes next.

Mobile Library

Please note that there is a mobile library at Bracken Way, Ashwood Park on Tuesday 7th March between 14:55 and 15:10 and every 3 weeks thereafter at the same time.

This is open to **ALL** Marston residents.

Stop Press - Soot Hill

Further to the article and images on pages 6 and 7 we understand that Cheshire West and Chester Council's Cabinet have now considered the construction plans for Soot Hill and the recommendation they have made is to enter a contract with Balfour Beatty for the construction works to start in March 2023, with a scheduled completion by December 2023. The costs of these works are estimated at £3.5m.

A section of the highway at Soot Hill in Northwich was closed in December 2021 after a period of heavy rainfall triggered a land slip.



Parish Councillor Vacancy

We now have a vacancy on Marston Parish Council for a parish councillor.

If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please write to the parish council (via the clerk) and include a few details of why you would like to become a councillor.

The job is potentially a very interesting one, serving the community, meeting people, and doing a range of activities.

The clerk's email can be found on page 14.

In the Garden

Gardening in March

Things start moving now in the garden. Its time to prune roses, plant shallots, onion sets, early potatoes and summer-flowering bulbs. Also lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials. Cut back *Cornus* (dogwood) and *Salix* (willow) grown for colourful winter stems



Things to consider when pruning roses

Cuts should be no more than 5mm above a bud and should slope downwards away from it, so that water does not collect on the bud. This applies to all cuts, whether removing dead wood, deadheading or annual pruning.

Cut to an outward-facing bud to encourage an open-centred shape. With roses of spreading habit, prune some stems to inward-facing buds to encourage more upright growth.

Cut to the appropriate height, if a dormant bud is not visible. Cuts must be clean, so keep your secateurs sharp. For larger stems, use loppers or a pruning saw.

Prune dieback to healthy white pith. Cut out dead and diseased stems and spindly and crossing stems. Aim for well-spaced stems that allow free air flow.

On established roses, cut out poorly flowering old wood and saw away old stubs that have failed to produce new shoots.

With the exception of climbing roses and shrub roses, prune all newly planted roses hard to encourage vigorous shoots.

Trace suckers back to the roots from which they grow and pull them away.

Time to plant seeds or plugs



Camellias

One of the “stand out” shrubs at this time of the year is the Camellia. They are a popular evergreen shrub that produce a beautiful display of flowers during late winter and early spring. All this at a time when there is little else is in flower in the garden. There are thousands of varieties to choose from, with white, pink or red flowers, which can either be single or double.



Whichever variety you choose, you need to get the soil conditions right. Camellias need to grow in acidic soil. If you don't have this type of soil in your garden, many varieties are happy growing in pots of ericaceous (acidic) compost.

Camellias also do best in a partially shaded spot in your garden, sheltered from wind. You can deadhead camellia flowers as they begin to turn brown to prevent the plant looking unsightly. However, deadheading is not necessary to promote new flowers.

Water camellias with rainwater, if possible. This is particularly important in hard water areas with high calcium deposits in the tap water, which can affect the acidity of the soil. If you have no option, use tap water – it's important to keep camellias well watered in summer, between July and September, as this is when next year's flower buds are formed.

Fruit and vegetables

Now's the time to sow vegetable seeds. Place in an unheated greenhouse or cold frame. Check sowing conditions, some may need to be placed in a heated propagator, such as tomatoes, aubergines, chillies and cucumbers.

Sow lettuces, tomatoes, salads and cauliflowers under cover. Outside, you can sow peas, carrots, beetroot, summer and autumn cabbages, herbs, leeks, spinach, turnips, spring onions, broad beans, Brussels sprouts and parsnips. This is also a good time to start planting out early potatoes, onions, garlic and shallots. Permanent crops, such as asparagus and strawberries, can also be planted now.

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	
			lynn.gibbon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
	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	

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

By William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and
hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the
breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly
dance.

The waves beside them danced;
but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little
thought
What wealth the show to me had
brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure
fills,
And dances with the daffodils.



Where is this?

The postbox is the one at
the junction of Ollershaw
Lane and The Avenue

Quiz answers

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Liam and Millie | 13. District Line (60) |
| 2. Nitrogen | 14. Vatican City |
| 3. Zagreb | 15. Genesis, Exodus & Leviticus |
| 4. 2006 | 16. 12 |
| 5. Sirius Black | 17. Catherine Parr, Catherine Howard, Anne of Cleves, Jane Seymour, Anne Boleyn, Catherine of Aragon |
| 6. Infant | 18. Bristol |
| 7. Iron | 19. British |
| 8. Yorkshire | 20. Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific, Southern |
| 9. Shawn Carter | |
| 10. Sir Jason Kenny | |
| 11. Seven | |
| 12. Whisky | |

See a conjunction of Jupiter & Venus

In early March there will be a spectacular liaison in the sky. Two of the brightest planets will be very close to each other as seen from Marston.

Venus & Jupiter (easily visible to the naked eye) will be ½ degree apart on 2nd March, known as an appulse.

Look above the horizon after sunset.

Setting a couple of hours later, Venus and Jupiter will be all but unmissable as the bright points of light in the southwest in the early evening sky.

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.

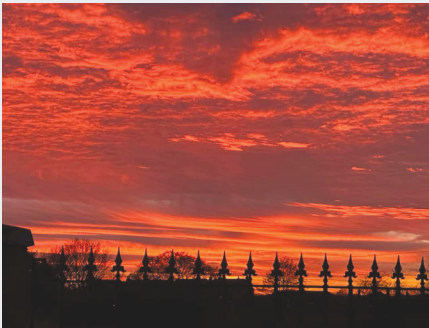
Your contributions and ideas are welcomed! We are always grateful for ideas or articles from any readers. Just send them through to the clerk or any one of the councillors.

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

Incredible sunsets seen over Marston in February!



**Pictures provided by
residents
(Top to bottom)**

Marion Potts,
Jackie Rathbone,
Lynn Burdis,
Al Thompson
and Jackie again.