



Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

April 2018

The Lion Salt Works – The Legacy of an Industry



The Lion Salt Works in our village of Marston is the last standing remains of an open-pan salt works in the UK; a unique legacy of an industry that dominated the mid-Cheshire region for almost 2,000 years. Open-pan salt production was confined to a few locations where geological conditions preserved layers of salt beneath

the ground. Only four complexes of inland open-pan salt works now survive in the world: our Lion Salt Works, Royal Salt Works in France; Saline Luisenhall in Germany and the Colorado Salt Works in the USA.

Open-pan salt making involves the evaporation of brine until salt crystals form and has been carried out since the Romans were in Britain. The industry dominated the area around Northwich, Winsford and Middlewich in the 19th and early 20th century and declined after the Second World War. The Alliance Salt Works operated from 1856 to the end of the 19th century while the Lion Salt works began on an adjacent plot of land in 1894 until its closure in 1986. Six generations of the Thompson family ran the salt works in Marston.

Ref: the Open Pan; The Archaeology and History of the Lion Salt Works, C. Hewitson; Wikipedia.

Marston Murmurs Walking Group Wednesday 14th March.



Our Walkers plus Chris Anthwal behind the camera!

So on a mild, slightly blustery day our intrepid community members gathered in the car park of The Salt Barge to set off for our inaugural Marston Parish Walk. The rain stayed away and after a brief word from Warren, the leader of this walk, we 10 people and 2 dogs, strolled off to Neumann's Flashes; walking

at first clockwise into the gentle wind, we carried on around the southern end of Ashton's Flash. Fears that the group would split up with those more experienced walkers forging ahead were ill-founded as we stayed together as a group walking at a decent pace, enjoying banter and chats. Spring was very much evident in the bursting buds of pussy willow and catkins which lifted the group's spirit and sense of wellbeing, which in a way was the motivation behind starting the group that and bringing people together in good company and maybe to improve fitness levels. Turning off to the west, we passed through Dairy House Meadows, onto Marbury Lane and eventually to join up on the northern path of Neumann's Flash. After a gentle 3.25 miles, we adjourned for lashings of tea and hearty sandwiches at The Salt Barge. The group decided that we would walk once a fortnight and eventually we will develop various options such as different week days, morning or evenings in the summer months and choices for walk distances.

Come and join us on our walks planned for this month. We will be meeting at 10.30 am in The Salt Barge car park Wednesday 11th and 25th April.

Events



Lottery Bingo @ the Salt Barge

COMING TO A PUB NEAR YOU! A brilliant, fund raising activity – the brainchild of Phil Gatley – mine host.

What do you do?

Select 10 numbers 1 – 59. Pay into the pot (held behind the bar), £1 per week in advance if you want. Your numbers will be displayed on the board in the bar area of The Salt Barge and, as the National Lottery is drawn on Saturday evenings, the main six numbers are marked off your selection – if you're lucky. If you do pull five numbers in the first draw then you should have done the National Lottery as well!

The first person to get all 10 numbers will win the pot and the game is reset.

- Phil will have on display The Rules of the game
- Once the game has started no new entries are allowed
- One week after the winner takes all, the game is reset
- If you are not paid up to date and your numbers come up you are in default and will not take the pot
- The game then continues until the next lucky winner

So keep your funds topped up! And the fund raising? 20% of the total final prize fund goes, initially, towards the printing costs of "Marston Murmurs". Thanks to The Salt Barge for supporting our community efforts.

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Coffee Mornings, every Tuesday; 10 a.m.until 12 noon at the Church Hall.

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



A friendly welcome awaits you to join with old/new friends and neighbours for a cuppa, a slice of toast and chat. Catch up with the neighbourhood news, current events or just come and enjoy the company. We have a small library of books and DVD's to borrow or swap

and sometimes we can arrange activities to suit all ages and interests.

Occasionally, we may have to cancel a coffee morning and details of such cancellations will be posted on Facebook, on the website and on the notice boards.

Bits 'n Bobs



Pink Poo Campaign.

Walkers around the village may have noticed that carelessly dumped dog poo has been sprayed pink. This has highlighted that most dog owners are being very responsible and clearing up after their pet but there are a few owners who are not. Thank you to all those who are keeping our streets and verges clean. The Pink Poo Campaign has not quite gone to plan due to the 'Beast from the East' making it difficult for the council's Street Scene workers to come out to clear the poo. So it has been decided to put the campaign on hold for a short time. This will hopefully give everyone better weather to spray and clean the faeces from our pavements. Please lets keep our village streets clean.

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Phases of the Moon



The moon changes its shape almost every night. But why? The phases of the moon are caused by the light from the sun and the moon's orbit around the Earth. The moon's phases are from waxing crescent, quarter, gibbous¹, full moon, and waning back to new moon. So: 3rd Quarter – 8th April; New Moon – 16th April; 1st Quarter – 22nd April; Full Moon – 30th April.

This month:

2nd April – Conjunction of Mars and Saturn for several weeks, at their closest tonight low in the southern dawn sky

7th April – Close approach of the moon with Saturn tonight, low above the southern horizon just before dawn

17th April - Close approach of the moon with Venus tonight, low above the Western horizon from about 8.30pm; may be difficult to see though as the moon is only a day old

22nd & 23rd April – Lyrid² meteor shower. Moon will set after midnight, leaving a good dark sky for meteor watching

30th April - Close approach of the moon with Jupiter tonight, highest at 1.46am, 22 degrees above the Southern horizon.

1 Gibbous – more than half but less than full

2. Lyrid – a meteor shower from 16th to 26th April every year

The Times, they are a-changing in Marston

Not known for its musical heritage, suddenly Marston is a hotbed, thanks mainly to Iain and Jayne Stead and the various groups they've formed such as The Assets, Codswallop and Pastry Shoes, to name just three. Marston has been rockin' n' reelin', swinging and swaying and coming together in song and dance with this musical collective.

So, with our usual eagerness we gathered at our Village Hall on March 8th to see Pastry Shoes who enhanced their growing reputation by providing hand clapping, knee slapping, foot tapping, good time music with a smile on its face; a show to please all ages, especially those who remember the 60's and beyond.

Recently, I had the pleasure of an excursion from Piccadilly to Hathersage in the Peak District aboard the folk train with Pastry Shoes in the driving seat; a musical journey of sheer delight. The memory of passengers, at first strangers to each other on boarding the train, singing along and chatting to each other and exchanging phone numbers, will be with me a long time. So here's to the next live music event in Marston at The Lion Salt Works on 19th and 20th May, Live and Local.

Our Village Hall is an ideal venue for musical events and as word gets around we will see a greater attendance at subsequent concerts. The Tuesday coffee morning get together has proven to be popular and lively. The Community Singing night has brought a few of us out of our shells. Those of us who didn't think we could sing now know we can't but are no longer shy about singing in public. It's fun!

Jed, a Marston Resident

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Free Hot Pot Lunch at the Church Hall, Marston Sunday 8th April at noon.

Join us for another of our Hot Pot Lunches! A delicious range of meat and vegetarian dishes will be provided. All we ask is that you bring a pudding to share. Coffee and tea is also provided and you can even bring along your own favourite tippie!



Cheshire Rural Touring Art

Cheshire Rural Touring Arts works across the County's rural communities to bring high quality professional theatre, dance, music and children's shows to local venues within the heart of a small village or wider community. And Marston is fortunate to have **The Lion Salt Works** as one of those venues. Come along to see "Ensonglopedia of Science" on the **18th May** - a song about science for each letter of the alphabet. "Ensonglopedia of Science" is a hugely entertaining and comic production from John Hinton, and is bound to captivate anyone who has a passing interest in understanding this Universe of ours.

Ticket prices £6.50 - £9.00 Group ticket £21.95 – £24.80

Doors open 6.45pm performance starts at 7.30pm.

The show lasts 70 mins plus interval time'

Booking **01606 275066**

Wincham Community Centre on Saturday 7th April

Storyteller Emily Hennessey and internationally renowned sitar player Sheema Mukherjee

Join in this exhilarating, evocative piece of theatre, "Kali: The story of the World's Wildest Goddess".

Ticket price £10 and will include Asian appetisers.

Doors open 7.00pm performance starts 7.30pm.

Booking **07847187983**

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***"April is the cruellest month, breeding memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain"* The Wasteland, T.S. Elliot**

Its name is derived from the Latin verb aperit, which means to open. April is long associated with the growing season, when trees and flowers begin to "open". The name *Aprilis*, then, fits April, because in so many places in the northern hemisphere, April is the month when trees and flowers begin to bloom and go on to flower.

Events/ Bits 'n Bobs

Celebrate the Royal Wedding and the FA Cup Final at the 2nd Live & Local Music Festival at Cheshire's Award Winning Lion Salt Works Museum.



Not been invited to the wedding of the year? Didn't get tickets to the FA Cup Final? That doesn't mean you can't celebrate in style without breaking the bank. On Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th May, everyone is invited to enjoy these extraordinary events free of charge at the second Live & Local Music Festival being held at Cheshire's Lion Salt Works Museum in Marston. Both days will start at midday, with musical acts catering for all tastes. This neighbourhood festival will feature live music throughout the day and the dynamic atmosphere will be complemented by a range of stalls,

children's activities and coverage of both the royal wedding and the FA Cup Final.

For more information contact the organiser, Iain Stead on 07737185215 or The Lion Salt Works Museum on 01606 275066.

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Potholes!!!! A contribution from one of our readers.

Most people complain about potholes but never report them. If we don't report them the council won't know to fix them as, contrary to popular belief, they don't have people out every day inspecting roads. They rely on the public to tell them the issues. We would urge people to report specific potholes and not rely on others. Cheshire West and Chester Area Highways Team can be contacted on 0300 123 7036 or the best way is to do it online at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk. Search "fault reporting", then you can plot where it is. Link:

<https://maps.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/cwac/faultreporting/>

National Gardens Scheme

Who and What Are They?



The National Gardens Scheme (ngs) has been inviting garden owners to open their exceptional gardens to the public for good causes, giving people unique access to some of Britain's most beautiful, memorable gardens. Over the last 90 years, they've donated £50 million to charities across the UK, thanks to the warm generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors.

Where are the ngs gardens near you?

Abbeywood Gardens - Chester Road, Delamere, Northwich. CW8 2HS.

01606 889477 www.abbeywoodestate.co.uk

Superb setting near Delamere Forest

Open for ngs Sun 13th May, Sunday 12th August. Admission £5. Further opening times please ring or email Abbeywood Gardens.

All Four Farm - Colliers Lane, Ashton by Budworth, Northwich, CW9 6NF.

01565 733286

A traditional and well established country garden with a range of roses, hardy shrubs, bulbs, perennials and annuals.

Open for ngs Sun 1st April, Monday 7th April, Monday 28th May, Saturday 30th June. Admission £5.

Arley Hall and Gardens - Northwich, CW9 6NA.

www.arleyhallandgardens.com

One of Britain's finest gardens!

Open for ngs Sunday 5th August. Admission £8.50p, child £3.

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Reminder for you Gardeners!

Get busy now to prepare your pride and joy for Marston's Best Kept Garden



Annual Award. We will be judging in August. Contact

Lynn McGahern or Chris Anthwal

The photo to the left is of Parish Councillor Lynn

McGahern presenting last year's winner of Marston's Best Kept Garden, Mrs Thornton of Marston Lane.



Green Fingers

Jobs in the Garden this month ...

- Plant out your early potatoes into trenches or plant a few tubers into big pots for a quicker crop
- Start growing tomatoes, aubergines, courgettes and winter squashes in pots on the window sill or in a greenhouse
- Start cutting your lawn and re-seed bare patches. You will soon have it looking bright and green again.

Task for this month...

There are few greater harvests than cut flowers; few more luxurious returns for a bit of digging, weeding and sowing than vases of flowers all summer long. Hardy annuals are particularly dependable and abundant and should be the core of your patch. They are the simplest to grow by sowing directly into the ground. A word of warning though; April's weather is wildly unpredictable so hold off if the weather or soil is too cold. Pre-warm the soil by covering with black or clear plastic, or cover your newly sown rows with cloches.

Some of the best hardy annuals to try are; calendula, cornflower, larkspur and nigella. These will give you a variety of colour and shape with a mix of showy performers and background fillers. Work your soil until it is fine and crumbly, make a drill and crumble some fresh compost along it, then finely sow the seeds along the drill; cover, water and label.

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April Fool / Spaghetti tree hoax – some of you will remember it?



The spaghetti-tree hoax was a three-minute hoax report broadcast on April Fools' Day, 1957 by the BBC current-affairs programme *Panorama*, purportedly showing a family in southern Switzerland harvesting spaghetti from the family "spaghetti tree". At the time spaghetti was

relatively little known in the UK, so that many Britons were unaware that it is made from wheat flour and water; a number of viewers afterwards contacted the BBC for advice on growing their own spaghetti trees. The photo is of a woman harvesting spaghetti in the BBC programme.

The Revd Alec Brown's page

We are pleased to welcome The Revd Alec Brown's inaugural contribution to our Parish Newsletter. Thank you, Alec.

Dates for the diary

Sun 1st April – Church Teas begin again in the Parish Hall, Great Budworth

Sun 15th April 1.00pm Point-to-Point Service, Tabley Races

Thurs 19th 7.00pm St John's Gospel recitation, Church

Mon 23rd 7.45pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Church

Sat 28th 7.30pm Daleian Singers (Male Voice Choir) Concert, Church

Sun 29th 10.30am Confirmation Service with Bishop Keith Sinclair

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Monday 23rd April at 7.45pm in Church

All are very welcome to the Annual Meeting to review the life, work, worship and witness of the church during the last year. There will be on display some drawings from the architect for improving and enhancing of the church. Please come along with your comments and suggestions. The meeting will be about the future of our church, building and people. So please come along and make your voice heard.

There is also a vacancy for one member of the Parochial Church Council and we are also looking for anyone who may be interested in becoming a Deputy Churchwarden, please speak with the Vicar or either of the Churchwardens if you are interested.

Sponsored Sleep Out

"A cold night we had of it....." but at least it didn't rain! All together nine of us braved the elements and, fortified greatly by midnight hotdogs and breakfast bacon butties we got through the night and some of us, at least, got some sleep! The night sky was breathtakingly beautiful and we could hear foxes crying in the distance and a dog barking in Marston! And then of course the dawn chorus was wonderful. All in all a night to remember. Thanks to all the rough sleepers and to the very many sponsors and to the providers of cardboard! The money raised, almost £1,000.00, will be going to support homeless people in Manchester and to the work of Christian Community Ministries in Romania. THANKS TO ALL!

The Revd Alec Brown.

Bits 'n Bobs

Filming in Great Budworth

Filming for Mammoth Screen's "The War of the Worlds" by H.G. Wells, a new BBC drama, will be taking place in Great Budworth during the first two weeks of April (school holidays). There will be road closures and other restrictions on traffic by CWAC Council. The Service of Holy Communion on Wednesday 4th April will take place but there will be road closures and traffic restrictions, with a central car park on the Parish Field at the bottom of Smithy Lane. Please be aware of these closures and restrictions and leave in good time! Remember also that Westage Lane is still closed. The Play and Praise Service on Thursday 12th April is cancelled.

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CHAIN

Since 2003, CHAIN, a non party political organisation have campaigned against the building of incinerators in Cheshire. From our understanding the current planning application is for a Bio Energy Waste Processing Plant (a process with low environmental risks) to be built in Lostock. But it appears that the intentions of OWM, the company involved, is to build a Waste Burning Incinerator; a totally different process requiring different waste feed and with much greater environmental impact. According to CHAIN, MP Mike Amesbury the Member for Weaver Vale has lodged an objection to the original planning application, supported by Lach Dennis, Lostock Gralam and Pickmere Parish Councils. Marston Parish Council also lodged an objection.

For more information go to : <http://www.anti-incinerator.org.uk/>. Email: admin@anti-incinerator.org.uk
Tel. no.: 0845 9569696

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The Marbury Park Bridge is still an ongoing concern to many residents and we have received correspondence from several. We urge those of you who share the loss of this community asset to get in touch with us.

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Your mind is a garden
Your thoughts are the seeds
You can grow flowers
Or you can grow weeds.

Fun for Kids at Easter



Spring Word Search - In the Woods

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

Search for the words below - in any direction!

leaf

woodland

acorn

forest

flower

owl

nature

fox

tree

rabbit

branch

frog

shrub

bird

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Born in April:

Leonardo da Vinci (artist, scientist, inventor and all-round Renaissance genius), 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"), the first edition of Webster's dictionary and
.....Adolf Hitler!

Bits and Bobs

Reflections 2 . . . on a cormorant.

Folklore says, “March comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb.” reflecting I suspect on the unpredictability of the weather typical of that month. 1st



March was certainly a roaring lion with sub-zero temperatures, biting winds and sprinkles of snow. I walked up Ollershaw Lane mid-morning and paused to view the birds on the flooded pits owned and managed by the Twenties Fishing Club.

On the left side two cormorants have taken residence and on that day in spite of the cold weather the pair were standing, wings characteristically open, on the fishing platforms. And, as always, the sight of these black fishing birds poised to catch their dinner in waters maintained by anglers made me smile; its irony not lost. Regarded by some as sinister and greedy, cormorants are supreme fishers which can bring them into conflict with anglers (thankfully not here) and they have been persecuted in the past. Now protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 the UK holds internationally important wintering numbers – one such pair here in Marston. However, an increase in cormorant populations had led to a new focus on the impacts of cormorant predation on fish stocks and species. Where there is evidence of damage to commercial fisheries and where non-lethal methods of control have been tried but failed, Natural England is permitted to issue a licence for the shooting of cormorants. Shockingly, over 9,000 were shot last year. The Wildlife Trust believes that Government priority should be to strengthen and implement policies that will enable speedy restoration of damaged waterways. With the right policies in place healthy populations of native fish-eating birds and fishermen should be able to happily coexist. And maybe next year, if we have a breeding pair, cormorant chicks will be standing, wings characteristically open, on the fishing platforms.



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E: hoasisgarden@googlemail.com

The Salt Barge Your Local, Community Pub



The Salt Barge is a traditional country pub located in the rural village of Marston, 1 mile away from the town centre of Northwich. Located opposite the Lion Salt Works Museum, we specialise in local cask ales and traditional British food all prepared and cooked in our kitchen.

We also feature traditional pub games and show live sports from Sky in our bar area. We are listed in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide.

**Our menu is a traditional menu with a twist of gourmet. With large servings our meals will not leave you hungry...
although you will want more!**

Monday – Wednesday: 12 noon - 3pm; 5pm - 11pm
Thursday: 12noon - 11pm. Friday: 12noon – 12 midnight
Saturday: 12noon - 11.30pm; Sunday: 12 noon - 11pm

Enquiries & Reservations: 01606 43064
Ollershaw Lane, Marston, Northwich CW9 6ES



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The Lion Salt Works is a jewel in the crown of Cheshire and Marstoners are rightfully proud of it. Please support it and come along to one of many events that are being held through the year!

These are the most imminent events.

Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th April, 10.30am-4pm - Watching Spring

Spring activities for children and adults. Suggested donation £2.

Saturday 21st April, 12 noon-4pm – Beginners' Photographic

Workshop: The Fabric of Industry, £10 admission. Information and bookings at www.derekrandallphotography.com/workshops or call 01606 275037. Join professional photographer Derek Randall and learn how to take better pictures with any camera! Suitable for beginners who are interested in improving their technique or making their images stand out.

Friday 27th April - Bluebells and Lions

Meet at Marbury Country Park at 10am. £5 group admission to Lion Salt Works includes a free guided tour. Pre-booking essential. Contact Marbury Park on 07946 400675 or chris.moseley@cheshirewest.gov.uk.

Refresh your cultural wellbeing on this two-hour walk to the Lion Salt Works, with a chance to take in a guided tour of the museum and grab some light refreshments. Then walk back to Marbury Country Park to experience the bluebell carpet spectacular.

Thursday 10th & Friday 11th May, 2.30-4pm. - Oh! What a Lovely War

Free, but book in advance at Lion Salt Works 01606 275066. The HND and Level 3 BTEC students from Warrington & Vale Royal College commemorate the ending of the First World War with this production of Joan Littlewood's famous 1969 musical *Oh! What a Lovely War*.



Museum Opening Times:

Museum open Tuesday – Sunday 10.30am-5pm. Play area and butterfly garden open daily 9am-5.20pm.

Open all Bank Holiday Mondays.

www.lionsaltworks.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk/

Your Marston Parish Councillors

	<p>Chair: Peter Arch</p> <p>peter_jonarch@yahoo.co.uk</p>		<p>Marion Potts</p> <p>marion.potts703@btinternet.com</p>
	<p>Lynn McGahern</p> <p>07549876222</p> <p>lynn.mcghern2@gmail.com</p>		<p>Caroline Constable</p> <p>carolineconstable@btinternet.com</p>
	<p>Chris Anthwal</p> <p>07775573089</p> <p>chris.anthwal@talk21.com</p>		<p>Warren Davies</p> <p>07879458195</p> <p>warrenjdavies59@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Clerk: Liz Massey</p> <p>clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk</p> <p>Website; www.marstonparishcouncil.co.uk</p> <p>Email us at: info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk</p> <p>Facebook: www.facebook.com/marstonparish</p>		

Church Hall Bookings: Ange on 07716565038

Any enthusiastic and community-minded person who may be interested in joining the Parsh Council should speak to anyone of the above councillors, who, like you will, find the role rewarding.



Please contact the editor, Warren Davies, or any of our councillors if you have suggestions, contributions, comments or enquiries for advertising.

Williams Printers band advert (to reduce our costs)