



Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

August 2018

The Pubs of Marston



Familiar with the building in the picture? Yes, of course it's The Salt Barge pub. Until its refurbishment and structural alteration in 1986 it was The New Inn. Originally a beer house and grocer shop owned by John Platt it was sold to Greenalls in 1891. From local records we see

that the early New Inn licensees were: James Harding (1921-1938), Harry Cordwell (1928-46), Annie Cordwell (1946-71), Alan Perry (1971) and John (Reg) Hughes (1971 -86). Peter Fay was the first licensee of the refurbished pub followed by (not in chronological order) Paul Cobb, Keith Fahrenholz (x2) Spencer Jewitt, Trevor Prince, Richard and Jackie Knowles and our current landlady Lyn Taylor who is in her second period of tenancy.

But before this we had the Red Lion standing in the Salt Works' grounds near to the canal. To make way for Salt Works expansion, it was demolished and replaced by a new Red Lion; originally two cottages bought in 1894 and converted by the Thompson family (owners of the Salt Works). Greenalls bought it in 1907 and it was compulsorily closed in 1940. Greenalls received £2,670 and Harry White, the last licensee, £300.

In 1857, there was a third pub the Rock Miner's Arms; its name derived from the occupation of its first licensee, Thomas Barton, stood opposite the Red Lion Salt Works at 47 & 49 Ollershaw Lane. It closed in 1908.

But coming back to The Salt Barge, it allegedly was built to provide sustenance to the Marston residents who were disgruntled and inconvenienced by the influx of salt workers into the Red Lion, thirsty and sweaty after their shifts. Hence an appropriately named New Inn was built!

On the next few pages we summarise some of the news and issues within our community. We are keen to receive feedback and comments so please get in touch if you feel strongly about or can add information to these issues.

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Asset of Community Value (ACV)

Residents who love their local pub and think it adds value to their community, can apply for it to be registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Without ACV status developers can convert local pubs to a wide range of retail uses or even demolish them without applying for planning permission. • ACV status means planning permission will be required for the pub to be converted to any other use or demolished • A sale of an ACV pub to a developer can be delayed for up to six months while the community explore options to keep the pub open • Property developers who want to avoid a contentious planning application may be dissuaded from buying an ACV listed pub..

The Parish Council have just completed the required nomination form and we will update you on its progress.

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MaRCH (Marston Residents Conservation and Heritage Group)

The next meeting of this group will take place on 6th August at 7.30 pm. Those who wish to attend please contact one of our councillors for further details. We are looking to expand this group to be similar to FoAM (friends of Anderton and Marbury) and would appreciate volunteers to come forward to help us set it up.

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The Marbury Park Bridge

After much discussions with residents and visitors to our village we have decided to put together a petition of those people who would wish to see its reinstatement. Your signature and address would be needed to demonstrate the wide spread support for the bridge and add weight to our strategy to have it replaced. It is a serious loss to the walkers from our community and surrounding areas. Forms will be circulated over the next few months. Please get in touch with one of our councillors to register your interest.

Parish News and Issues

Traffic Calming Many have raised the need for traffic calming measures particularly in the lower Marston area. Some have commented that the traffic lights at the bridge give “incentives” for less careful drivers to race to beat the change. More signage is needed before the bend and perhaps the road is more suited to a 20 mph limit. Please contact us if you also share this concern.

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Councillor surgeries Residents have met with us. Issues include:

- Cross Street Parking. We have received complaints from several residents about the parking problems in Cross Street. We will be discussing this with CWAC.
- Parking along the grass verge on Fernlea Road
- Litter and house debris being deposited in the farmer’s field from Manor Avenue
- General litter scattered alongside all of our roadways
- Bus stop on Marston Lane not fit for purpose

Each of these concerned is being actioned by a delegated parish councillor

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Lottery Bingo @ The Salt Barge This is now in week 8 and going strong with prize monies approaching £150. Contact Phil in The Salt Barge or one of our councillors to join. Those already in, please check that your payments are up to date as we come close to completing! See the pub’s noticeboard.

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Coffee morning We are in our summer break and they will start again on 11th September. We meet every Tuesday morning from 10 am until 12 noon. Afterwards, Parish councillors are available to discuss any issues you may have, in confidence or otherwise.

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Marston’s Best Kept Garden Competition 2018. It’s nearly time for two Parish and one County Councillor to visit all of our village gardens and judge. Winners over the years have been from Higher Marston, along the common and in the village with the trophy displayed in the winner’s living room for the year. The judges will be about on Sunday 19th August, give them a smile if you see them!



Green Fingers

Jobs in the Garden this month ... August

- When off on your holidays group your pots together in a shady place and stand them in trays of water. Do the same for houseplants, inside or out, the bath is a handy water tray.
- Harvesting may be your busiest task this month, do it regularly and frequently. There is a big difference between a French Bean picked when sweet, tender and tiny and one that should have been picked a week ago, that difference is what makes growing your own worthwhile.
- Potato blight can devastate your crop very quickly and arrives in late summer in warm and wet weather. Look out for rotting or shriveling leaves and brown patches on stems. Dig up and destroy affected crops.

Tasks for this month... August

Sow Green Manures ... Green Manures are sold as big packets of seeds to be sown directly onto fallow earth. There they germinate and grow quickly and thickly, covering the soil. There are several reasons for sowing a green manure. The main point is to create bulky organic matter that can be dug into the soil to improve its structure, a great solution if you want to give your soil a treat but don't have access to farmyard manure or lots of compost. They also drag up nutrients from the soil and make them more easily available to your plants. They also germinate so thickly they prevent weeds from getting a toehold

The Green Manures to sow now and dig in next Spring are:

- Winter Tares: an annual, fast growing vetch that fixes nitrogen and will benefit nitrogen loving leafy vegetables.
- Winter Field Bean: another nitrogen fixer particularly good on heavy soils. It is a legume to don't plant peas or beans straight into it.

Grazing Rye: Deep roots and a good nitrogen fixer and can be used anywhere in a vegetables garden rotation. Very hardy and will grow in cold weather.



I wonder how many of us remember the trip 'out the back' or 'down the garden' to the lavatory and how many varieties of loo were used?

It will be strange to the younger or more 'well-heeled' folks that at one time the toilet was not the flushing, 'Toilet Ducked' loo we have in our centrally heated homes today, but could be as basic as a bucket and a plank of wood with a hole cut out, in a shed, at the

bottom of the garden with a torch or candle to light your way on a dark night.

In rural areas the privy was often built next to the pigsty, and it has been often wondered as to why, what have pigs and loo's have in common? The simple answer is the pigs would provide warmth in the winter through the sharing of a brick wall.

The toilets were emptied on a weekly basis by a couple of 'strong and cast iron stomached' men who went by a variety of nicknames known in some areas as 'nightsoil' men, 'night mechanics' or simply the 'bog men'. I'm sure most areas had their own variations on these, perhaps you remember them.

Some toilets were 'two holers', often a large and smaller hole so little ones didn't fall down the loo and at busy times there was no waiting as there was room for another!

No luxury soft toilet tissue either, it was newspaper cut up into neat squares and hung on a nail or if you were posh, the Izal or Bronco paper which had shiny side or a rougher side depending on your need. Behind the Jabez Thompson brick works at Lostock the communal toilet was found to contain quantities of cotton waste used instead of paper. The Northwich Rural District Councils handbook in 1951 advised tenants moving into new housing with flushing toilets not to use rags.

There was a commercial use for urine in the area, in the Salt Works urine was passed directly into the pans of boiling brine to prevent frothing and to help produce certain grades of salt. The intense heat would kill any germs in it, the exact details are lost in time and thankfully not allowed today.

Something to think about next time you need to visit, be grateful for the luxury loos we have today and the paper with the puppy on it!

Parish News

Marston Parish Walking Group



We meet at 10.30am in The Salt Barge car park every other Wednesday. After the walk (around 12.30pm) many of us meet up for tea and/or sandwiches at The Salt Barge. When required we arrange a wheelchair friendly route with other more mobile walkers leaving the walk around half way to complete a longer loop.

Our next Wednesday morning walks are: 1st August, 15th August and 29th August

Evening Walks Our second evening walk was a great success (especially as it didn't clash with the World Cup as the last one did)! Over a dozen walkers turned up with many new faces including those with day jobs who can't make the morning walks. A non-competitive informal quiz was held over refreshing drinks afterwards.

**Evening walks are 4th Thursday in the month at 7pm
in The Salt Barge car park**

Our evening walk this month is 23rd August.

Chris Moseley the CWAC Ranger will be leading the walk.

Police Community Support Officer - Diana Wiggins 20322

Diane Wiggins is the PCSO for the Marbury ward which also covers Marston. Some of you may have seen her patrolling the area.

If any of the residents have any issues or concerns please feel free to pop along to any of the surgeries listed below to discuss.

Police surgeries are being held at the Wincham Community Centre. The next surgeries are:- Thursday 9th August 7-8pm Thursday 12th September 7-8pm.

If you need to contact Diana:

Diana.Wiggins@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

or please ring 101 in a non-emergency and 999 for all emergencies.

Parish News

The Earl of Stamford Morris



On Tuesday 17th July in the car park of The Salt Barge, a large crowd of residents and visitors enjoyed the dancing of the Earl of Stamford Morris. With hugely entertaining dances and music, they even managed to cajole a few residents to perform some simple dances. Afterwards in the pub, the musicians of their party entertained us with squeeze boxes, accordians, violins and flutes. Our local resident, Ron Dunn, is a member of the group and will gladly give contact information to anyone who is interested in joining their group.

www.earlofstamford.org.uk

The Rev'd Alec Brown's page

The Reverend Alec Brown's page is shorter this week as unfortunately he is recovering from a heart attack. He is doing well and resting up and I am sure that you will all want me to convey to him your best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 1st Aug 10.30am All Age Service for Lammastide – all very welcome
Thursday 2nd August 7.30pm Celtic Evening Prayer in the Quiet Garden
(weather permitting)

Advance notice – Friday 21st September at 7.30pm Performance in church by the Osiligi Masai Warriors – do not miss it!

Church enhancement/improvement proposals

Following further discussions at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and within the PCC, the Churchwardens, Chairman of the Restoration Committee and I met with the Architect to discuss the ideas ahead of a joint PCC and Restoration Committee Meeting on 12th July. Additional ideas which had been raised and will be incorporated – the widening and extending of the lower chancel step, the provision of handrails for the chancel steps, the removal of two rows of pews on the south side of the choir to create a bespoke storage unit. Please therefore continue to voice your thoughts and ideas on these proposals – the drawings can be seen in church and commented on in a notebook. The original paper about the proposals is reproduced in the July edition of the Parish Magazine and can also be seen in church. The work will be a lasting, fitting and positive addition to the church – environmentally, aesthetically and practically. Although unanimous agreement on the proposals may not be possible consultation with all of you is important – so please have your say – it's your Church! Also the overall process may be slow and not easy, though replacement of the boilers will be easier. The work on the clock is likely to be done later in the summer or in the autumn.

The Revd Alec Brown

Reflections #6 – Flaming June

Reflections 6 - Swallows Revisited.



Sunday 1 July – 11.50a.m. Three swallows fledged, and a joy I was in the garden to witness their first hesitant flight!

The adult nesting pair were noisily swooping in and out of the alleyway and I could see the 3 chicks almost bursting out of their conical nest. The adults were almost (I fancied) shrieking at their ponderous offspring to take to flight. Then

one chick launched itself from the nesting platform; its wings flapping in slow motion compared to its parents – the tail short and stumpy but with the characteristic fork. It completed a full circuit of the garden, landing inelegantly on the power cable. A parent bird rewarded the chick's efforts with a beak full of insects in an instant.

Both adult birds then resumed their flight; their chattering increasing until two more chicks floundered into the sky. One landed clumsily on the power cable but the third, weaker and smaller, misjudged and crashed into the wall somehow clinging to it. Flapping its wings and chirping rather pathetically, it was seemingly ignored by the parent birds who continued to feed the other two chicks, impervious to their offspring's plight. With a desperate flapping of wings the fledgling left the wall and dropped the next garden. 45 minutes later there were still only two fledglings on the wire.

The cliché, "How cruel is Nature." came to mind.

The parents continued to feed the remaining two and I swear deliberately flying into them to knock them into their dipping, faltering flight to strengthen their wings and maybe their confidence.

I couldn't understand why the adult birds were not seeking out the tiny bird to coax it out of its predicament. But then why waste food and energy on something that that was weak and not strong enough to survive the Autumn migration to Africa.

For some hours I watched and thought about the fragility of life, its transience and how a chance landing determined life over death.

Reflection #6 (continued)



Then, 3.15p.m. Trudging through the parched, over-hot garden I glanced up at the wire . . . 3 birds . . . surely an adult and two young. I dumped the shopping on the ground and walked closer. There it was, the third fledgling huddled down by its sibling. I swear it was trembling.

The tenacity of nature! How the strength of the desire for survival had driven that chick to escape the cat, the sparrow hawk, the magpie.

Sunday 8th July 9.30a.m. No longer able to distinguish between adult and young swallows; now all gloriously sweeping the rich feast of Summer.

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A Little Song Of Life

Glad that I live am I;
That the sky is blue;
Glad for the country lanes,
And the fall of dew.

After the sun the rain,
After the rain, the sun
This is the way of life
Till the work be done.

All that we need to do,
Be we low or high,
Is to see that we grow
Nearer the sky.

Lizette Woodworth Reese
(1856-1935)



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Our menu is a traditional menu all home made in our kitchen. With large servings our meals will not leave you hungry... although you will want more!

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Monday - Friday Food: 12-2.30pm 5pm-9pm

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Sunday: 12 noon - 11pm

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 Supplied by Sandiway Ales



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Museum Opening Times:

Museum opens Tuesday – Sunday 10.30am-5pm.

Play area and butterfly garden open daily 9am-5.20pm.

Open all Bank Holiday Mondays.

Ollershaw Lane Marston CW9 6ES

T: 01606 275040

E: museumenquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

W: www.lionsaltworks.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk

Forthcoming Events

- **Letters Home: Communications on the Front, 20 July - 16 November**
This poignant exhibition displays the collections gathered during the last four years during the Cheshire Great War Roadshows and reveals communications with the Front.
- **Superhero Summer, 31 July - 1 August, 10.30am-12.30pm & 2-4pm.**
Suggested donation £2.
With so many Superhero blockbusters in the cinema this summer, it's only right we do a craft to celebrate our favourite Superheroes.
- **Alice Garden Party, Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th August, 10.30 am – 12.30pm, 2-4pm**
- **Fossil Fun, Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th August, 10.30am – 12.30pm, 2-4pm**
- **Film: The Railway Children, Wednesday 15th August, 11am – 12.50pm**
- **The Beano Bonanza, Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd August, 10.30am – 12.30pm, 2-4pm**
- **Live and Local presents a Bank Holiday Bonanza - see the website for details**
- **Wild at The Works, Tuesday 28th & Wednesday 29th August, 10.20am – 12.30pm & 2-4pm 11am – 5pm**



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Your Marston Parish Councillors

	<p>Chair: Marion Potts marion.potts703@btinternet.com</p>		<p>Lynn McGahern 07549876222 lynn.mcghern2@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Chris Anthwal 07775573089 chris.anthwal@talk21.com</p>		<p>Acting Clerk: Caroline Constable carolineconstable@btinternet.com</p>
	<p>Warren Davies 07879458195 warrenjdavies59@gmail.com</p>		<p>Jed McGahern 07533 295140 jed.mcghern1@gmail.com</p>

**The Parish Clerk's position is now vacant.
If interested, please contact a councillor for a job description.**

Also we still have a vacancy for a new Parish Councillor.

Website; www.marstonparishcouncil.co.uk
Email us at: info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/marstonparish

Church Hall Bookings: only £8.50 per hour
Please ring Ange on 0771 6565038

Any enthusiastic and community-minded person who may be interested in joining the Parish Council should speak to anyone of the above councillors.



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

Williams Printers band advert (to reduce our costs)