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|  | **Marston Murmurs** |
| **The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council Dec 20/Jan 21** | |

**![A group of people standing next to a tree

Description automatically generated]()Marston Remembrance**

On the 7th November the ‘Keep Their Memories Evergreen’ Arch was erected and decorated in the Church yard alongside the War Memorial. It was a tribute to the men and women of Marston who 100 years ago stood in the Church yard to remember the men who died in the Great War and take part in the dedication service of the War Memorial they had funded.

On Sunday 8th November, we came together to take part in the Remembrance service and rededication of the War Memorial, which was a moving and poignant service delivered by Rev. Christina Westwell from Gt. Budworth Church, Marion Potts, Dave Featherston (RBL), and Tony and Robert Hayes. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Marston Parish Council by Marion, Amanda and Phil (councillors) and on behalf of the Armed Forces by Dave, Tony and Robert. A lovely addition to the service were the candles (donated by IQ SEO of Chester) laid as the names of the Soldiers were read out, they were particularly nice to see as the light faded and they flickered away into the night. Sadly, we were unable to open the hall due to Covid restrictions but we hope to have our small exhibition as soon as it is safe to do so.

For those who would like to see the construction of the Arch and a short version of the service, please visit youtube, type in ‘Marston Remembers’ or find it on our Facebook page. For those without a computer we are hoping to have a DVD copy to watch. Also discover the people behind the Memorial, who they were and where they lived and worked at [www.marstonlads.com](http://www.marstonlads.com).

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| **Parish News** |

A picture containing food, sitting, table, clock

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As part of our celebrations for the Centenary of the Cenotaph in the church yard we had a colouring competition for the younger members of our village. We would like to thank our entrants who made the task of judging very hard as they were all so good, but the winner was Elizabeth from Marston Lane and runners up Amelie, Cameron and Emma.

**Dog Fouling**

We are getting complaints from residents about the regular appearance of dog faeces on the pavements and verges of Higher Marston. Please remember it is an offence not to clear up after your dog and very unpleasant when left outside your gate or next to your car.

**Hedge along the steps at Higher Marston**

Pleased to report the hedge has been cut back by Weaver Vale HT prior to new tenants moving into the adjoining property.

**Support for local businesses**

It has been a difficult year for small businesses, please can you consider supporting our local businesses when you can.

**Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

Ashwood Park has recently registered a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme covering all homes on The Brambles, The Coppice, Gorse Covert, Hawthorn Walk, Hedgerow Drive, Cherry Mews, Field Maple Avenue, Hornbeam Way, Juniper Close and The Laurels.

Julia Griffiths from Cherry Mews is the Coordinator, and Brenda Heald from Field Maple Avenue is the Deputy Coordinator.

*So, what does this mean?*

Julia and Brenda will get official email alerts from the police, the fire service, the local authority, and a variety of bodies involved in public safety and security. They will use the existing communication channels (Street Reps, Facebook Page and Park Magazine) to communicate appropriate messages and

our PCSO Diana Wiggins and PC Terry Boyle will now know that a formal scheme exists. Residents will have access to verified safety and security offers (approved by Trading Standards, Age UK, Neighbourhood Watch, etc.)

It's early days of course, but hopefully a good start?

If you want any more information, Julia can be contacted on 07711266966, Brenda on 07960360251.

Anyone can setup a neighbourhood watch scheme. We did have one running on Ollershaw Lane but the coordinator has now moved out of the area and the scheme has been deactivated. Anyone wishing to start up a scheme; talk to your neighbours, see what they think and go online to: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/support/support-schemes/set-and-run-local-scheme> for further details.

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| Summary Minutes of Marston Parish  Council Meeting of 11th November 2020 |

Ward Councillor Phil Marshall highlighted a number of consultations currently available for comment:

Budget 2021 – Main points looking at council tax and business rates for 2021 especially in respect to current financial issues due to COVID-19. Noted that most of the councils expenditure due to COVID-19 has been covered by government grants.

Walk Thrive – consultation looking at active travel. There was a consultation in the summer highlighting new walking/cycling routes (mostly Chester centric) but non had been added for Marbury. More funding is available.

Short Break Strategy – looking at SEN children’s time away from families.

COVID Board – public sessions are being held to talk about recovery plans. A Pandemic Scrutiny Committee was set up in the summer and reports sent to cabinet with recommendations for future support of individuals/communities and businesses.

Sustainable Transport Panel – first public session to be held on 12/12 but may be Chester centric to start, but plans should filter out to other areas. Access via invite only, emails to be sent to Transport Strategy at CW&C.

Ward Councillor Surgeries – first surgery is being planned for 1/12. Details will be communicated to residents via facebook.

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| Bits ‘n’ Bobs |

**Mulled Wine**

Ingredients

* 1 large orange
* 3 lemons
* 12 cloves
* 2 satsumas or clementines
* 2 x 750ml bottles red wine
* 2 cinnamon sticks
* 150g/5½oz caster sugar (optional)
* brandy, to taste (optional)

Method

1. Carefully peel the zest very thinly from the orange and lemons using a vegetable peeler. Squeeze out the juice and reserve.
2. Stick the cloves into the satsumas.
3. Pour the wine, 1.2 litres/2 pints of cold water, and the citrus peel and juices into a large, heavy-based saucepan. Add the clove-studded satsumas and cinnamon sticks. Bring the mixture just to the boil, then reduce the heat until the mixture is simmering, cover the pan with the lid, and continue to simmer for about 1 hour. Stir in the sugar gradually during cooking, until the mulled wine is sweetened to your liking (you may not need all of the sugar)

**Christmas apple and mincemeat crumble**

## Ingredients

* 850g/1lb 14oz Bramley apples
* 2 ripe pears
* ½ lemon, juice only
* 250g/9oz mincemeat
* 75g/2½oz golden caster sugar
* ½ tsp ground cinnamon
* ¼ tsp freshly grated nutmeg

### For the crumble

* 225g/8oz plain flour
* 150g/5½oz unsalted butter, diced and chilled
* pinch salt
* 50g/1¾oz golden caster sugar
* 50g/1¾oz flaked almonds

## Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4.
2. Peel, quarter and core the apples and pears. Cut the fruit into bite-size pieces and put in a large bowl. Squeeze over the lemon juice and toss the fruit well to coat in the juice.
3. Add the mincemeat, caster sugar, ground cinnamon and nutmeg to the fruit and mix again.
4. Tip into an ovenproof dish, spread evenly and cover with foil. Bake on the middle shelf for 10 minutes while you make the crumble.
5. For the crumble, tip the plain flour into a large mixing bowl, add the cold, diced butter and a pinch of salt. Using your fingertips rub the butter into the flour until the crumble starts to look like sand.
6. Continue rubbing in until the crumble starts to form clumps. Add the sugar and flaked almonds and mix again to combine.
7. Scatter the crumble over the fruit in an even layer. Return to the oven, uncovered and cook for 45 minutes, or until the fruit is bubbling and the crumble is golden-brown.
8. Serve with homemade custard or brandy cream.

**History of Good King Wenceslas**

Good King Wenceslas last looked out  
On the Feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay 'round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gath'ring winter fuel



[This Photo](http://www.pngall.com/christmas-bell-png) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/)

Good King Wenceslas may be one of the most popular carols ever written – but the story behind it is bizarre and gruesome.

The man we know as ‘Good King Wenceslas’ was actually Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia. He was also known as Vaclac the Good, or Svatý Václav in Czech and lived from c.907 to 28 September 935.

And the reason we have his exact date of death is that he was assassinated – on the orders of his brother, appropriately named Boleslaus the Cruel.

**Young Wenceslas**

Wenceslas didn’t come from Christian stock: his grandfather had been converted to Christianity by Saints Cyril and Methodius. And his mother was the daughter of a pagan tribal chief – though she was baptized before she was married.

When young Wenceslas’ father died there was a power vacuum: the young boy’s mother was banished and his grandmother killed by assassins – it’s said she was strangled with her own veil.

But once the dust had settled, the people of Bohemia decided they’d like Wenceslas to be their ruler. His mother ruled as regent until young Wenceslas reached the age of 18… at which point he promptly banished her.

And when he came of age he banished his mother. To try and avoid disputes, the country was split in two and half given to Wenceslas’ younger brother, Boleslaus.

**His assassination**

But Boleslaus wasn’t happy with the set up and in September 935 he plotted with a group of noblemen to kill his brother.

The three nobles – Tira, Česta, and Hněvsa – stabbed Wenceslas – before his own brother ran him through with a lance.

We even know the date: 28 September. When Wenceslas was later canonized, this day was made his Saint’s Day.

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| POP Quiz – TV Comedy |

1. When the Trotters became millionaires at the auction, who fainted first?
2. Which character has been in control of Empire Entertainment since 2015?
3. What was Boon, before he became a despatch rider?
4. Who starred as Edna, the Inebriate Woman?
5. Who played the title role in Dear John: USA?
6. Which larger than life actor played Danny McGlone in Tutti Frutti?
7. Name the original title of The Phil Silvers Show starring the character Bilko?
8. Which female comic duo formed part of the Comic Strip Team?
9. Honor Blackman plays whose passionate mother in The Upper Hand?
10. Which series told of the misadventures of young Dr Stephen Daker?
11. Which retirement home features in Waiting for God?
12. Who played the head porter, Scullion, in Porterhouse Blue?
13. Which singer/actress played Adrian Mole’s mother in The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole?
14. Who are Elizabeth and Emmeline better known as?
15. How many arms did Zaphod Beelbebrox have in the Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy?
16. What is the name of Martin Crane’s dog in Frasier?
17. Which To the Manor Born actor starred in Lytton’s Diary?
18. Which duo link Blackadder to Jeeves and Wooster?
19. In which district of South London was Only Fools and Horses set?
20. Name the DIY show in Home Improvement?
21. Alexi Sayle played which forger in Selling Hitler?
22. Which Are you being Served actress played Nerys Hughes’s mum in the Liver Birds?
23. In which comedy would your find the character Bubbles?
24. Name The Goodies?
25. Peter Howitt played which Boswell in Bread?
26. Sgt Flagg was played by which actor in The Growing Pains of PC Penrose?
27. What were the names of Lucille Ball’s neighbours in I Love Lucy?
28. Which Good Life actress went it alone in Solo?
29. Complete the title of this series starring Sid James: Bless This…..?
30. Who played Barry in Auf Wiedershen Pet?

Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

If you are reading this in the December issue of Marston Murmurs then we will be coming out of Lockdown no. 2 and probably entering a 2 or 3 tier stage. Like me I expect that you are all well and truly fed up with the continuing pandemic. But I hope like me you are continuing taking precautions by limiting your journeys, washing your hands, keeping space between you and anyone outside your household and of course wearing face masks in public places.

As for this lockdown I’m not too sure how effectively people are following these simple instructions. Popping to visit my bank last week I was amazed at the crowds in Northwich town; queues outside the new B&M and Costa and a significant number of people not wearing face masks. Why do some people not get the message?

But over the horizon there is encouraging news about the likely success of  some of the myriad of vaccines being developed worldwide. The most optimistic development is a mRNA vaccine developed by the German company BioNTech founded by Professor Uğur Şahin and his wife Dr. Özlem Türeci (see picture), both experts in cancer immunotherapy. The German company BioNTech and the American pharmaceutical firm Pfizer announced to worldwide acclaim that their jointly developed vaccine in recent trials had proved 90% effective in stopping people from falling ill. Uğur Şahin, the chief executive of BioNTech, said he expected that further analysis would show that the jab is also effective in stopping spread of the disease – but probably not by as much as 90%. Certainty around its impact will not come until next year, he added.

Many standard vaccines work by injecting a dead or weakened form of the pathogen into the body in order to build immunity; the weakened portion (antigen) trains the body’s immune system to recognise and respond to any future invasion by the virus. But this RNA vaccine works by introducing into the body a messenger RNA (mRNA) sequence that contains the genetic instructions for the vaccinated person’s own cells to produce the vaccine antigens and generate an immune response. So await further news and……fingers crossed!

Meanwhile back in Marston due to the Covid instructions, our Parish Hall remains closed and we are still missing the events especially the coffee mornings – and even Duncan’s quiz! Warren Davies

Next is a reminder that your Parish Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council are still offering help to those in difficulties with the continuing pandemic. Below we have put together some helpful information, much compiled from the Cheshire West and Chester (CW&C) council web site and from Government advice.

* **If you are in need of help**

You should ask:

* Family. Do you have family close at hand?
* A friendly neighbour?
* Marston Parish Community Support team
  + Our contacts are below
* **Contact the CWaC Helpline on 0300 1237031** or www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/covid

Some residents have problems with the supply of prescriptions or provisions when their regular supporters may be unavailable. In this case don’t hesitate to use the support of your Marston Parish Community Support team.

**For those struggling financially**

The lockdown has faced many with financial difficulties. Those who may be struggling to pay billsplease use the CWaC Helpline as above.

* **If You’re Struggling to Afford Food**

You may be able to get **food bank vouchers** but you will need a referral which you can obtain from:

* CW&C Help Scheme 0300 123 7065 9am – 5pm
* Citizens Advice Bureau: CAB Helpline – 0344 576 6111 or call Sean on 07894 238 963, from 9.30am to 4.30pm - weekdays.
* WCCAB – Gaynor – 07736 621235 or Sam – 07596 338067, Monday – Thursday 9am – 5pm, weekdays only.

Once you have your referral Mid Cheshire Foodbank provides food parcels from its distribution centres in Northwich and Winsford by appointment. Deliveries can be arranged for residents in Northwich and Winsford who are unable to leave their home.

We are conscious that many will not have access to the internet so please feel free to ring in confidence one of our Councillors, who will put you in touch with the right person in Cheshire West and Chester Council.

* **Other problems?**

Our Parish Council volunteer team is here to help please don’t hesitate to give us a ring and we’ll be pleased to assist.

**If you wish to volunteer to provide support in our**

**community please contact us.**

As detailed in our previous 2 Covid bulletins, here is the Marston Parish Community Support Team who you can call upon if you are in difficulties.

**Chris Anthwal** 07775 573089 chris.anthwal@talk21.com

**Iain Stead** 07737 185215 iainstead2@gmail.com

**Dave Collier** 07901 810558 davecollier87@hotmail.co.uk

**Phil Carter** 07879 843900 philandshe@hotmail.co.uk

**Warren Davies** 07879 458195 warrenjdavies59@gmail.com

**Dave Featherstone** 01606 631702

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| Parish Events |

Unfortunately, due to the current situations with COVID-19 and all of the restrictions in place we have no events planned for this Christmas/New Year. We hope to get back to ‘normality’ sometime in the new year.

Wishing all our Marston Residents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope 2021 will see everyone able to return to a more normal life and allow us to meet again without fear and risk to our health. Take care everyone.

Answers to TV Comedy Quiz

1 .Del. 2. Lucious Lyon. 3.A fireman. 4. Patricia Hayes. 5. Judd Hirsh. 6. Robbie Coltrane

7. You’ll never get Rich. 8. Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders. 9. Caroline Wheatley’s 10. A Very Peculiar Practise. 11. Bayview Retirement Home. 12. David Jason. 13. Lulu. 14. Mapp & Lucia. 15. Three. 16. Eddie. 17. Peter Bowles. 18. Fry and Laurie.

19. Peckham. 20. Tool Time. 21. Conny Kujau. 22. Molly Sugden. 23. Absolutely Fabulous. 24. Bill Oddie, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden. 25. Joey. 26. Bryan Pringle. 27. Fred & Ethel Mertz. 28. Felicity Kendal. 29. House. 30. Timothy Spall.

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| Useful Contacts |

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| **CWAC Councillors**  **Lynn Gibbon** 07581 226814  lyn.Gibbon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk  **Norman Wright** 01606 74788  norman.wright@chesterwestandchester.gov.uk  **Phil Marshall** 07917 171438  [phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) |

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| **Cheshire West and Chester Council**  Mon-Fri 81m-7pm and Sat 91m-12.30pm  Online at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk  General enquiries 0300 1238123  Highways 0300 1237036  Street Scene 0300 1237026 |

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| **PCSO Diana Wiggins PCSO20322** diana.wiggins@cheshire.pnn.police.uk  **Officer Terry Boyle PC4555** terry.boyle@cheshire.pnn.police.uk  Dial 101 in a non-emergency and 999 in an emergency |

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| **Ester McVey – your local MP** Telephone: 01625 529922 |

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| **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 and articles from any of our readers . Just send them through to the editor or any one of the councillors or even give us a ring. |

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| Further information on Parish matters can be found on ***marstonparishcouncil.co.uk***  Back copies of the ***Marston Murmurs newsletters*** are also on this website.  For Facebook users see: **Facebook/Marstonparishcouncil** also **Facebook/All about Marston and surrounding areas**  Copies of this newsletter can be obtained from The Salt Barge, The Lion Salt Works or the Church Hall. Those who wish an electronic copy email info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk. |

**PCSO Surgery dates**:  
  
Future dates have yet to be scheduled. Once we have them we will post them to our facebook page.

**COVID-19**

Two new COVID-19 local testing sites are now open in west Cheshire, allowing residents with COVID-19 symptoms to book a test. The sites in Winsford and Northwich are open from 8am to 8pm, seven-days-a-week. They are walk-through sites and no parking is available at either location. The Winsford site, Queensway Testing Centre, is located on Queensway and has begun offering tests. It can only be accessed by the pathway that leads to the rear of Wyvern House. The Northwich site, The Old Depot Testing Centre, opens on 10 October and is located on Leicester Street on an area of unused land that was a former Cheshire County Council depot.

**To book a test visit the NHS website or call 119**

**Citizens Advice Cheshire West**

For help with debt, benefits, housing, family and work problems you can contact us at:

www.advicebyemail.org.uk

Adviceline 0344 5766111

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| |  | | --- | | **The Salt Barge is OPEN for Take-way Meals** | | **.**  Like all pubs and restaurants in the hospitality business, Nick and Sarah, have been hard hit by the constraints and reduction in income that COVID restrictions bring. If you appreciate our local asset and enjoy your visits whether regular or not I'm sure you will want to support them through these hard times. And let's admit it the food is **LOVELY.**  Give them a call this weekend or in the coming weeks. .....and give your kitchen a rest. Meals and bottled beers and wine available and need to be pre-ordered.  And after lock-down? Give them support to further develop and sustain our wonderful village community asset!!! |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Your Marston Parish Councillors | | | |  |  | | **Chair: Marion Potts**  07842 894733  marion.potts703@gmail.com | **Iain Stead**  07737 185215  iainstead2@gmail.com | | **Chris Anthwal**  07775 573089  chris.anthwal@talk21.com | **Phil Carter**  07879 843900  philandshe@hotmail.co.uk | | **Warren Davies**  07879 458195  warrenjdavies59@  gmail.com | **Dave Collier**  07901 810558  davecollier87@hotmail.co.uk | | http://marstonparishcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/carolineconstable.jpg **Clerk: Caroline Constable**  clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk | **Amanda Nixon**  **07786 135375**  hoasisgarden@gmail.com |  |  | | --- | | Website: www.marstonparishcouncil.co.uk  Email us at: info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk  Facebook: [www.facebook.com/marstonparish](http://www.facebook.com/marstonparish)  Williams Printers advert  Diagram  Description automatically generated | |