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|  | **Marston Murmurs**  |
| **The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council Feb 21** |

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**New year**
As we count down to say goodbye to the old
We look to embrace the new,
like the sun rising, the birth of a new day
the sun lights up the sky with her golden light, offers us all that is bright

New year, a new page in your chapter of life
another chance, to change or enhance
making the most of all we have
Now is our time

Time to shine

A new year is like spring, the birth of everything
bulbs turn into flowers
buds open their petals

facing the sky
young birds start to fly

Let’s spread our wings and take our chance on life
Come out of the shadows, leaving the dark behind us
Let the daylight find us

Even when the sky is the darkest grey
I often see a gap of light
Where the sun has her say
She will not be beaten
I call this light hope

Hope is sun rays bursting to the floor
Through the gap in the sky, giving us hope once more
here’s to the new year
May the sun always shine for you
for you and yours and all that you do ❤

A poem by resident Ann Rowlinson

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| **Parish News** |

Sadly, we have had two of our councillors’ resign within the last month. Warren Davies has left Cheshire returning to his beloved home country; Wales, and due to other commitments Iain Stead has also offered his resignation. We wish them all the very best in the future and offer thanks for their time, enthusiasm and commitment to Marston and it’s residents.

On the same note:

**GoodBye from Min Y Nant**

This edition of Marston Murmurs sees me now living in my new home, Min Y Nant, which translates in English to "On the Stream's Edge". After living for 44 years in the Northwich area I have now returned to the region of South Wales where I was born. Over these years I have made many friends both in the local rugby clubs and particularly in the Marston area. Our area has been blessed by the activities in the Salt Barge, at Iain's Steads Mack's Music events, at the Lion Salt Works and our coffee mornings and lunches at the Parish Hall. Due to this pandemic I have been unable to meet up with my many friends so I have to resort to this message. Your community is something for you to be proud of with Ashton's and Neuman's flashes, Marbury Park, the Trent and Mersey canal , Anderton Boat Lift and of course our Lion Salt Works . I will miss these and will leave with some frustrations and unfinished business such as the potential of a community centre at the Coronation heritage site, the need for traffic calming particularly on lower Ollershaw Lane, the renewal of Forge Brook bridge and the continuing saga of the goings-on behind the Salt Barge pub. But this I now leave behind and leave to your dedicated parish council and I move on to concentrate on my retirement projects. May I wish all of you a safe passage through this pandemic and a bright and healthy future ahead.

Many Good wishes....Warren Davies

And with that:

**Parish Councillor Vacancies**

Due to the loss of Warren and Iain we are now in need of ‘new blood’. Anyone who lives within 3 miles of Marston and is of voting age (and on the voting register) is eligible to join the parish council.

We meet (online at the moment) the 2nd Wednesday of every month, bar August and December (everyone deserves a holiday), at 7pm and discuss and decide on local matters that affect us all; whether it be maintaining the church hall, arranging events (hopefully sometime soon), commenting on planning applications or just keeping abreast of local news, we can all contribute and that is what the parish council is for, to keep up to date with local news and contribute to the development and amenity of our village and all it’s residents, but to do that we need councillors.

If you are at all interested (even a little bit) then please get in touch. Email the clerk at clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk or email or speak to one of your councillors (contact information at the back of the newsletter).

Further details on what the ‘job’ entails can be found at:

https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/11.136%20A%20Councillor%27s%20Workbook%20on%20town%20and%20parish%20councils.pdf

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| Summary Minutes of Marston Parish Council Meeting of 13th January 2021 |

Ward Councillor Updates:

Resurfacing of Ollershaw Lane from the last point of repair (near to the ‘Old Vicarage’) to the Salt Barge pub is in the pipeline. We do not yet have a start date as this had not been scheduled but we will update you when we know.

Ward Cllr Phil Marshall commented that the state of the roads was a big community concern especially with loose grit and potholes. He suggested that we advertise the council app where issues can be accurately located with a ‘pin drop’. Go to https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it-app.aspx where there is a link to google play or the app store and then download it, or go directly to google play or the app store and enter ‘Cheshire West and Chester’.

Environmental Strategy Consultation currently ongoing – residents are encouraged to highlight areas of wildlife that they come across. There is an interactive map where these locations can be marked. Marked areas will then be given consideration for future conservation and protection. Go to https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/environment-strategies to contribute.

New central COVID vaccination centres are opening up. We will advertise details when they become available.

A new central hub with contact numbers is being developed for the support of vulnerable people during the pandemic.

More business grants are available for businesses struggling due to lockdown. £2000 to £9000 is available to each business. Some has been allocated automatically but there is also a discretionary fund available. Go to https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news-and-views/incidents/coronavirus-covid-19/business-information/financial-support-for-businesses.aspx for details

The 2021 – 2022 budget was discussed and agreed alongside the precept which will be set at last year’s rate of £12000.

Planning Applications:

1. Notice of Decision 20/02546/FUL – 2 storey extension Marston Lane – Approval
2. Notification of Appeal – land to north west of Ollershaw Lane – CW&C issued an enforcement notice for the erection of 3 buildings without planning permission, this enforcement has been appealed – parish councils comments sent in agreement with CW&C
3. Notification of Appeal – 20/00759/FUL – erection of a cattle shed – Cllrs agreed to send comments based upon original objection

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| Bits ‘n’ Bobs |

**Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?**

Then Walking in England (Cheshire) at www.walkinginengland.co.uk/cheshire is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the website and get walking!

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

**Rhubarb**

The outlandishly coloured vegetable that thinks it's a fruit. Rhubarb makes deliciously comforting puddings but its sharpness works extremely well with meat and oily fish dishes.

Forced rhubarb (grown in the dark) has yellowish leaves and usually appears in January. The field-grown variety replaces it around April and is less tender but often more flavourful.

Rhubarb was used as a medicine in ancient China. It was brought to Europe by Marco Polo and has been eaten as a food since the eighteenth century.

# Duck with rhubarb and sloe gin

Rhubarb cuts through the richness of duck wonderfully.

Ingredients

2 duck breasts, about 225g (8oz) each

125 g (4oz) rhubarb

2 shallots, peeled and finely chopped

1 small garlic clove, finely sliced

2 tsp. caster sugar

3 tbsp. sloe gin

Method

1. Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan) mark 6. Pat duck breasts dry with kitchen paper.  Score skin at 1½cm intervals, being careful not to cut down into flesh. Sprinkle skin generously with salt.
2. Place breasts skin-side down in a cold, dry non-stick frying pan over low heat. Fry for about 12min (without turning) until skin is golden and crisp. As fat renders from skin, pour into a bowl and reserve.
3. Set breasts fat-side up on a wire rack inside a roasting tin. Roast in oven for 18min for medium. Transfer to a board, cover with foil; rest while making sauce.
4. Prepare rhubarb: cut into 5cm (2in) pieces, about 2cm (¾ in) thick. In the cleaned-out pan, gently fry shallots in 2tsp of the reserved duck fat (see GH Tip) for 3min until soft. Add garlic; fry for 1min. Add 75ml (3fl oz) water, sugar and sloe gin. Stir a little to dissolve sugar.
5. Add rhubarb to pan, cover and simmer for 5min (don’t disturb rhubarb or it will lose it’s shape). Remove from heat. Set aside, covered, for a further 5min until rhubarb is tender. Check seasoning.
6. Slice duck. Serve on the sauce.

**Rhubarb Crumble Muffins**

Ingredients

For the muffin mix

175g [caster sugar](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/sugar-glossary)

175g [rhubarb](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/rhubarb-glossary) , halved lengthways then diced

2 tbsp [sunflower oil](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/sunflower-oil-glossary)

1 [egg](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/egg-glossary)

1 tsp [vanilla extract](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/vanilla-glossary)

125ml [buttermilk](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/buttermilk-glossary)

200g [plain flour](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/flour-glossary)

1 tsp [baking powder](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/baking-powder-glossary)

1 tsp [bicarbonate of soda](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/bicarbonate-of-soda-glossary)

For the crumble topping

50g [light muscovado sugar](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/sugar-glossary)

50g [plain flour](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/flour-glossary)

25g porridge oats

1 tsp [ground cinnamon](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/cinnamon-glossary)

50g [butter](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/butter-glossary)

Method

1. Heat oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Line a 12-hole muffin tin with paper muffin cases. Stir the sugar and rhubarb together and set aside while you make the crumble topping. Mix together the muscovado sugar with the flour, oats and cinnamon, then rub in the butter until clumpy with your fingertips.
2. Stir the oil and egg, vanilla and buttermilk into the sugary rhubarb (don’t worry if it’s a little bit juicy). Now, add the flour, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda and stir well.
3. Quickly spoon into the cases, then scatter each with a thick layer of the crumble mixture. Bake for 15-18 mins until golden and a cocktail stick poked into the centre of a muffin comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

**Thank you** to Ashwood Park resident Pam Mann for the kind donation towards the Church Halls Renovation Fund. She sent it in lieu of Christmas Cards as she was unable to get out over the Christmas period. She would like us to offer a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all her friends and neighbours.

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| General Knowledge Quiz |

1. What country has the shortest coastline in the world?
2. What is the point value of the pink ball in snooker?
3. What is the most expensive spice in the world by weight?
4. In The Matrix, does Neo take the blue pill or the red pill?
5. Which queen had the shortest reign of Henry VIII’s six wives?
6. Which Canadian artist released 'Man! I Feel Like A Woman!’ in 1999?
7. Pip is the main character of which book by Charles Dickens?
8. What is the tallest mountain in Nepal?
9. Who played Mrs. Robinson in The Graduate?
10. What is the man-made canal that splits North and South America called?
11. Under what name us the author Samuel Langhorne Clemens better known?
12. Which band recorded the theme song to Friends?
13. What French city does bouillabaisse originate from?
14. Which king preceded Queen Victoria?
15. How many F1 World Championships has Lewis Hamilton won?
16. What was the first feature-length animated movie ever released?
17. How many countries are there in world?
18. What is gorgonzola?
19. Who directed Titanic, Avatar and The Terminator?
20. Who was the last tsar of Russia?
21. For which film did Sandra Bullock win her Oscar?
22. What is the smallest country in the world?
23. Which horse is the only three-time winner of the Grand National?
24. Name the film which boasts the famous line: “You can’t handle the truth!”
25. In what century did the Peasants’ Revolt take place?
26. Which novelist wrote of a farm run by pigs and of the imaginary world of 1984?
27. Chives are a member of which family of vegetables?
28. Hollyoaks creator Phil Redmond is also behind which other British soap that aired for 21 years until 2003?
29. Who was the first man to go to space?
30. Name the British women's taekwondo player who won a gold medal in the 57kg at the 2012 London Olympics and at Rio in 2016?
31. Which character lived at Sunnybrook Farm?
32. What musician was deported from Japan in the 1980’s for possession of marijuana?
33. Which Blackadder character always had a ‘cunning plan’?
34. In what year did Coronation Street first air on ITV?
35. What is the opening line to 'Club Tropicana' by Wham?
36. What is the name of Quint’s shark-hunting boat in Jaws?
37. In which book by William Golding are Piggy and Ralph shipwrecked?
38. Which English referee officiated the 2010 World Cup final?
39. Who was the first to leave Take That?
40. What does HP stand for in HP sauce?

Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

As we are again in a lockdown we wish to send 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 CW&C 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 CW&C 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 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.**

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

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

**Dave Featherstone** 01606 631702

**Council opens Book of Reflection**

A book of reflection has been opened online for residents to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cheshire West and Chester Council has launched the book to offer people chance to reflect on the past year and share their messages of reflection, condolence, hope and thank yous.

There is also a section within the book to say ‘thank you’ to those who have made a difference during the pandemic.

The book will also be kept as a record of the tributes paid and the thank yous.

To take part visit:

https://www.theonlinebookcompany.com/OnlineBooks/CheshireWestandChesterCouncil/Content/Filler

Anyone without internet access who wishes to add a message can telephone: 01244 972214 or 01244 977074  Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

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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 the coming Year. We hope to get back to ‘normality’ sometime soon.

Answers to General Knowledge Quiz

1. Monaco 2.Six 3.Saffron 4.Red. 5. Anne of Cleves 6.Shania Twain 7.Great Expectations 8.Mount Everest 9.Anne Bancroft 10.The Panama Canal. 11. Mark Twain 12.The Rembrandts 13.Marseille 14. King Edward VII 15.Seven 16.Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs 17. 195 (193 countries that are member states of the United Nations and 2 countries that are non-member observer states) 18.Cheese 19.James Cameron 20.Nicholas II 21.The Blind Side 22.Vatican City 23.Red Rum 24.A Few Good Men 25.14th Century 26.George Orwell 27.Onion 28.Brookside 29.Yuri Gagarin 30.Jade Jones 31.Rebecca 32.Paul McCartney 33.Baldrick 34.1960 35.Let me take you to the place where membership's a smiling face 36.The Ocra 37.Lord of the Flies 38.Howard Webb. 39. Robbie Williams 40.Houses of Parliament

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| Useful Contacts |

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

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| **Cheshire West and Chester Council**Mon-Fri 81m-7pm and Sat 91m-12.30pmOnline at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.ukGeneral enquiries 0300 1238123Highways 0300 1237036Street 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.ukDial 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 clerk 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**Those who wish an electronic copy email info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk.  |

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| Your Marston Parish Councillors |

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|  | **Chair: Marion Potts**07842 894733marion.potts703@btinternet.com |  | **Could this be you?** |
|  | **Chris Anthwal**07775 573089chris.anthwal@talk21.com |  | **Phil Carter**07879 843900philandshe@hotmail.co.uk |
| ? | **Could this be you?** |  | **Dave Collier**07901 810558davecollier87@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.ukEmail us at: info@marstonparishcouncil.co.ukFacebook: [www.facebook.com/marstonparish](http://www.facebook.com/marstonparish) |

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Space for Williams advert