



# Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

March 2018

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We hope that you like the design of our newly formatted newsletter. Our aims are to inject energy into the community, to give you a more frequent and interesting newsletter, to help us as the Parish Council to engage with you and keep you informed. Much greater use of the Parish Hall for vibrant and new community events is also planned.

We have funded this **eight page edition** out of Parish funds and hope next month to launch an **enlarged 12 page edition**. This will be funded via kind sponsorship from local businesses that will be able to place adverts of their services with their contact details. So please contact us if you have a business which you wish to advertise. Rates will start at a very favourable £5 per line: quarter and half pages are available.

We welcome your ideas and contributions which you can give by using any of the contact details of your Parish Councillors at the back of this our first edition of the new format. So here goes!

# Parish News

## Chris Blain



Since our last newsletter, Marston Parish Council sadly lost its popular chairperson and lifelong Marston resident, Christine Blain, who passed away on January 4th after a stoically borne illness.

Chris attended council functions until no longer possible and remained good humoured and cheerful; her door was ever open to her many friends. She'll be remembered fondly and missed greatly for her calm nature and dry wit. The attendance at her funeral was a tribute to her popularity and the affection in which she was held.

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## Neighbourhood plan

We are currently in the early stage of producing the neighbourhood plan. Some of you may remember completing our questionnaire which feeds into the plan.

### What is neighbourhood planning?

The neighbourhood plan will give us more power to develop a shared vision of how we want our community to develop; choosing where new homes, shops and businesses should be located, how they should look and what may not be suitable for our area such as developments adversely affecting our environment. It will greatly affect the granting of planning permissions for new development . Watch this space for more information as we develop the plan.

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## All About Marston and Surrounding Areas



One of our residents, the altruistic and innovative music & event organiser, Iain Stead, has launched a new **Facebook page** as named above. Iain Stead said, "The Facebook page will inform everyone and promote all activities, events and

other notable dates and issues occurring in our area. We are hoping to encourage community projects and celebrate all the wonderful things we have on our doorstep!" We have agreed to closely coordinate our newsletter, website and Facebook page with Iain's initiative; his efforts are appreciated by all we believe!

# Parish News (continued)

## Marston Parish Council 2018/2019 Precept

In order to meet its budgetary needs, the Parish Council is required to submit a local precept which is added to the CWAC tax charge. This year the Parish Council have submitted a request of £8,000, an increase from last year's received precept of £5,000. This increase is needed for urgent renovation work on the Church Hall to cater for the increased usage by the community. Monies will also be used to improve our communications within the parish via newsletters and social media. Of your local CWAC council rate charge, £39 will go to the Parish Council; an increase of just under £15 per property, which raises a total of £7,846.

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## Marston Proposed Walking Group

 Time to dust off those boots, we are proposing to start a community walking group! We intend starting from the Salt Barge pub and arrange walks along the canal, Flashes and other areas around Marston. Walks will be graded to suit all abilities; there will be rest stops for flasks of tea or pies! Bring your dog, neighbour or family. All welcome. Our inaugural walk will be on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March starting from the Salt Barge at 10.30am**. We plan to do 5 miles or so around the Flashes and adjoining areas; those wishing to do less will be escorted back to the Salt Barge for tea coffee or something stronger. Let Warren or any of your councillors know if you wish to come along - or just turn up .With boots of course!!

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## Sky TV Football at The Salt Barge

 As part of its redevelopment the Salt Barge pub has had Sky TV installed, so now you can come and enjoy a huge range of sporting events. With 5 screens around the pub you will not miss a moment and with 2 boxes, simultaneous matches can be screened. And please don't worry, the quiet lounge areas and restaurant will remain quiet!! Well done Phil and Lyn. Come down and support their efforts and investment in what is after all our Community pub!

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**Did you know?** Ollershaw Lane is exactly one mile long; and currently has 43 potholes!!!!

# Coming Events

## MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2018

All meetings will be held at the Church Hall, Ollershaw Lane, Marston, CW9 6ER at 7.00 pm.

January 10 <sup>th</sup>	May 9 <sup>th</sup> (AGM)	September 12 <sup>th</sup>
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	May 23 <sup>rd</sup> (Annual Parish Meeting)	October 10 <sup>th</sup>
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	June 13 <sup>th</sup>	November 14 <sup>th</sup>
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	July 11 <sup>th</sup>	December – no meeting
	August – no meeting	meeting

The public and press are cordially invited to attend.



### Party at Marston Village Hall with Pastry Shoes!

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 7.30pm. Licenced bar and £3 at the door.** Another lovely community event at Marston Church Hall. If you haven't been to one yet, get yourself over for a fun time. We will be raising some funds for the Church Hall via a raffle. It is a school night so it won't be a late one! If you can donate a raffle prize let us know..

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### Advanced Notice of TWO other date for your diary

- **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April: Hot Pot Community Lunch** in the Hall from 12.30pm provided by the Parish Council for everyone to enjoy. Come along (and bring a pudding if you like) for an afternoon of good food and good company. Hope to see you at the Church Hall.
- **19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May: The Live and Local Event to be held again at the Lion Salt Works. FREE entry.** Two days of Family Fun including live music, a licenced bar, stalls, children's activities, hot food and live coverage of the Royal wedding.
- **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June: THE BIG LUNCH** on the back field at Higher Marston. Details to follow

### March Events at the Salt Barge



**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March:** - Live band "Kiss the Blarney" - the final tour

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 12.30pm:** Manchester United v Liverpool

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March-** Mothers' Day. Bookings being taken now

**Good Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March:** Karaoke

# Coming Events / Old Marston

## Marston Church Hall

- Funded and built by volunteers from the village of Marston, started in 1907 and completed in 1908 to benefit the community.
- It has been in constant use since that date serving the village.
- Traditionally, it was used as a reception room after couples married in the church and it was the local school's canteen, serving lunches daily.
- The local carnival committee used it to prepare the annual float.
- Fetes and sports days were annual events.
- Mid-20<sup>th</sup> century saw a youth club and regular harvest suppers.
- More recently a play group was held weekly.
- **And now....**A Community singing group meets regularly to sing for the sheer joy it brings.
- Weekly coffee mornings are enjoyed, bringing people together.
- Don't forget, the Xmas and Summer Fayres & our live music events complete with bar.
- Charity events to support, for example, MacMillan and Cancer Research.
- Big Lunch ventures whereby residents share a meal.
- It is also available for private hire at a competitive rate of £8.50 per hour. Contact Ange on 07716565038 for bookings and details.

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## Pink Poo campaign

We regularly receive complaints about dog fouling so we have taken up the Pink Poo campaign. The aim of a Pink Poo campaign is for local communities to highlight exactly how bad the problem of dog fouling is in a particular area and to embarrass irresponsible dog owners by spraying sighted incidents of dog fouling with pink paint. If everyone can see how bad the problem is then dog owners should be encouraged to pick up the poo and not leave it behind in the future. We have registered our interest and will be receiving our packs soon. We will place posters and inform you when things are ready.

Read more at:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/pests-pollution-food-safety/animal-welfare/dog-fouling.aspx>

# Bits and Bobs

## Chris Blain's Banana Loaf Recipe

Duncan Blain kindly gave us a recipe of his late mother which we think is appropriate for this our first newsletter since her sad passing. Thanks Duncan.

### Ingredients

175g, 6oz wholemeal flour  
85g, 3oz sugar free muesli  
125g, polyunsaturated margarine  
85g, fructose  
2tsp baking powder  
1quarter tsp ground cinnamon  
2 large beaten eggs  
4 ripe bananas mashed  
85g, pecan nuts roughly chopped

### Method

Preheat oven to 160 °C, 325 °F gas mark3, grease and line the bottom of a 900g (2lb) loaf tin with non-stick parchment.

Place the flour, muesli, fructose,

baking powder, cinnamon, and eggs

In a large bowl,

Beat together until evenly mixed. Stir in the bananas and pecan nuts taking care not to over mix.

Spoon the mixture into the prepared loaf tin and bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour or until the cake looks done and feel springy in the centre. You need to cover it with foil halfway through cooking if it is browning too quickly.

Allow the cake to cool in the tin for 5 minutes then carefully turn out on to a wire cooling rack.

Enjoy with a good mug of tea!

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**Coffee morning** Come along each Tuesday (10am-11.30am) and have a cuppa and a chat with new/old friends and neighbours and keep up to date with local news. You can swap books and DVDs, play table tennis or just have a chat. If you would like to try a specific activity or have an

interest you would like to share let one of us know . Sometimes 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.

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## Marbury Bridge

Some of you, especially dog walkers, will have noted that the bridge connecting the southern path on Budworth Mere to Marbury Park has been removed. There are many alleged reasons but I think many of you will agree that it is a serious loss to the community. We are working on a way forward but for now we would encourage you to lend us your support and get in touch with one of the councillors.

# Bits and Bobs (continued)

## Marston Murmurations



It was late, a late January evening and the cold drizzle leached from the pre-dusk sky. A grey and murky winter seemed to enfold and envelop the water soaked ground and blank out the spindly, structural form of the trees. I

trudged down the lane – collar up and hat in hand.

One band of racing birds. Another group hurled forwards. A flock, then another. Another followed with another quickly behind it. Then appearing suddenly from all directions – a great rush of starlings. This aerial display proved to be mesmeric: swirls of hundreds or thousands of birds dipped and rose, dipped and rose again, tumbling and twisting but never colliding, turning and soaring; one single beat of the collective wing.

And where was this? The Somerset Levels, Conwy estuary, the Cambridge Fens? No this was Ashton's and Neuman's Flashes – right here in Marston. I've been visiting the Flashes to see this winter treat for several years and each time it gets bigger and stronger. Some days my evening walk is less fruitful as the birds head down to the reed beds at Marbury. Once or twice I've been treated to the whole works say in my garden beneath a large umbrella.

Oh yes the hat and umbrella? Hundreds or even thousands of bird droppings . . .

The collective noun for a flock of starlings is a murmuration; an amazing sight. It also inspired the name of our newsletter. But Marston Murmurations seemed too long hence Marston Murmurs. Murmurs can be defined as a continuous background noise? A softly spoken or almost inaudible utterance? The quiet or subdued expression of a particular feeling by a group of people? Well, it sounds nice anyway. Hope it inspires and informs.

# Your Marston Parish Councillors

	<p><b>Chair: Peter Arch</b></p> <p>peter_jonarch@yahoo.co.uk</p>		<p><b>Marion Potts</b></p> <p>marion.potts703@btinternet.com</p>
	<p><b>Lynn McGahern</b></p> <p>07549876222</p> <p>lynn.mcghern2@gmail.com</p>		<p><b>Caroline Constable</b></p> <p>carolineconstable@btinternet.com</p>
	<p><b>Chris Anthwal</b></p> <p>07775573089</p> <p>chris.anthwal@talk21.com</p>		<p><b>Warren Davies</b></p> <p>07879458195</p> <p>warrendavies59@gmail.com</p>
	<p><b>Clerk: Liz Massey</b></p> <p>clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk</p> <p>Website; <a href="http://www.marstonparishcouncil.co.uk">www.marstonparishcouncil.co.uk</a></p> <p>Email us at: <a href="mailto:info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk">info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk</a></p> <p>Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/marstonparish">www.facebook.com/marstonparish</a></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.

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