



Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council April 2024



A word from the editor:

It has been a busy month for the council, we have welcomed our new Clerk Mr Gary Hedges, attended a meeting with CWAC at Wincham and we were invited to speak at the Town and Parish Council Conference at Chester. Reports from the meeting and conference are in this month's Murmurs.



Hello from the new Clerk – Gary Hedges

To briefly introduce myself, I moved to the village just over 3 years ago in January 2021 during a period of covid lockdown and snow on the ground just before the February floods that closed Ollershaw Lane for a period of weeks! I reside at The Arches, Marston Lane, next to the garage, with my wife Lucy and two children who attend Wincham Community primary school. We very much enjoy nature and the outdoors so can be regularly seen on walks or cycles in the area, or even on roller skates. It's been a refreshing change moving from a built up area to a more rural landscape and we appreciate it every day.

Having been in the new role a couple of weeks now, I am already learning a lot more about local issues and how the parish operates, and I am looking forward to being more involved in the community. I'd like to thank councillors for making me feel so welcome.

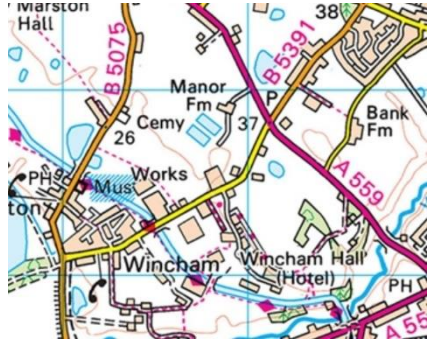
I am an Entomologist based at World Museum, Liverpool by day, and I'm always interested in any insects or other invertebrates you may come across in the area. You can always email me and I may be able to help with your identifications.

At last Marston Footpath no. 7 is open.

You can now walk from Higher Marston, to the fishing club carpark on Ollershaw Lane to Chapel Street and then on to the canal tow path in Wincham.

The last job the council has asked its contractors to complete, is drag the path with a chain harrow, which should pull up the brambles, which could become a trip hazard.

Please use this path as much as possible, as it will stop vegetation taking over again.



Keep Britain Tidy – The Big Litter Pick.



This year's Spring Litter pick will be on **Saturday 13th April 2024** meeting at the Church Hall at 2pm. Please join us and

help to keep our village tidy. If you are unable to join us, please take a few minutes to check around the area near your home and clear any litter there.

Parish Councillor Vacancies

We are looking for two people to join the Parish Council. If you have an interest in your community and helping the village to thrive, protecting the environment and unique heritage of the area, think about becoming a Parish Council member. Contact any of the Councillors for more information about the role.

CEO meeting at Wincham

organised by Marbury Cllrs with the CEO of CWaC Delyth Curtis, Jayne Black Head of Highways and Aleta Steele Localities, attended by your MP Esther McVey and all Marbury parish councils to discuss issues of concern.



Marston Councillors asked the following Questions and received these answers.

Q. Why when there are several marked potholes in a stretch of road do 3 trucks and 6 men turn up and only repair one pothole?

A. Repairs to defects are prioritised according to risk. Colas, the council's Highways contractor, will only repair the jobs it has orders for, those orders will have been raised for defects which meet our Safety Inspection Policy criteria. There is a finite budget, therefore there is a real risk that if spent repairing defects which did not meet the intervention criteria, the budget could be spent before the end of the financial year, and the service be left overspending dealing with emergencies only and not meeting its own Safety Inspection Policy. A find and fix solution (where the defect meets the intervention criteria when the contractor attends site) is still being discussed but does need careful consideration. Colas are paid a fixed price per pothole repair, therefore how they manage their resource is for them to decide.

Q. Marston desperately needs a bus service to Northwich. Can you help?

A. The council is happy to explore the possibility of Warrington Borough Transport diverting the CAT9 service operated between Warrington to

Northwich. However, it may not be possible to divert given the complex nature of the route and additional time it could take to serve the village.

Q. HGVs regularly use Ollershaw Lane as a cut through to Northwich, they are too big for the small bridge, dangerous and noisy for residents. How can we stop them or re-route them?

A. As there are a lot of businesses in the Wincham area, HGV's will require access and will always travel the direct route. Ollershaw Lane is a classified B Road and plays a key part in connectivity across our road network and provides access for residents and businesses undertaking their operations. It is difficult to prevent HGV's from using Ollershaw Lane as a through route into Northwich as there are currently no access restrictions in place for weight or width reasons. Any environmental restrictions are difficult to enforce as it must be proven that HGV's have not gained legitimate access for deliveries.

Q. Higher Marston Park is not a pleasant place for children to play or for adults to sit and enjoy. How can we ensure proper care and maintenance for our park?



A. The park receives grounds maintenance on a 5-week cycle as per the standard specification, however the Streetcare and public realm teams would welcome the opportunity to walk the site with the Parish Council to review any proposals they may have in terms of additional infrastructure and maintenance needs. Streetcare Officers have advised of ongoing fly tipping, which is cleared when reported. Regulatory services may play a key role in to try and target individuals who continue to fly-tip in the area if this continues. The play equipment was identified in the Councils Play strategy as being in

decent condition, and all equipment will be regularly inspected as part of the Health and Safety policy. The Yourstreets team is available to work with the community to look at who may want to volunteer in the area to improve public open space. The team can be contacted via emailyourstreets@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Town and Parish Council Conference

on Wednesday, 6 March at Chester was attended by Marion and Amanda who were invited to talk about the community activities we do to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents. This is a short version of the talk given by Marion and ably demonstrated by Amanda!



We have a weekly Chair exercise class run by a local fitness instructor, the exercises are designed to be safe for people with mobility or age-related issues but are challenging enough for all adults of all abilities. The lovely instructor Josh, will tailor the movements and strength required to each person and brings a lot of humour to each class. He also provides exercise bands for the strength and core workouts, these often seem to have a life of their own, ping-pong off at unguarded moments and catching the back of your head! We have also ordered some extra strong chairs to cope with the additional movements the chairs are now subjected to!

We also run a weekly coffee morning, which brings together a variety of ages, experience and interests. After refreshments and lively discussions there is a weekly quiz to keep minds sharp and we always learn something new.

Marston Murmurs is the Parish Magazine which is produced 10 months of the year and delivered to every home in the village and local facilities such as the pub, Lion Salt works and Gt Budworth Church. This brings contact to people who do not wish or are unable to come to village events or leave their homes and has encouraged community belonging in many people. We recently were awarded a grant from Freedom Fibre to improve bio diversity and help to bring wildlife into the village, this enabled us to buy a packet of wildflower seeds for every household and these were delivered along with March's magazine. As we had a discount on the seed packets, buying so many, we have been able to purchase bird boxes, feeders and a bat box. Some of these will go in the Churchyard trees and the bat box on the Village Hall, the rest will be offered to residents in next month's edition.



Remembrance Sunday was a rather sad affair a few years ago with few people attending. With the help of local people, we found out the history of the Marston Lads who went to fight in WW1 and for whom the war memorial was built. It has brought to life the people who lost their lives and the lives of their families and workplaces. It also showed how there wasn't a family in the Village who didn't lose either a relative, neighbour, friend or work colleague. We also found out the history behind a mysterious photo that hung in the Church Hall. It shows a large Evergreen Arch beneath which a group of people sit. These arches were built at the end of the war to welcome the soldier's home and again on Armistice Day before the permanent war memorials were built. For the centenary of the

war memorial, we built a replica of the Evergreen arch in the Churchyard near the war memorial and the War Memorial was rededicated and blessed by our local Vicar. This proved so popular that we have continued to erect the Arch every year and now Remembrance Sunday is attended by over 40 residents and very popular bringing together war veterans, service veterans, young and old people, who respect and wish to honour the fallen. They also seem to enjoy the tea, coffee and biscuits served in the hall afterwards! We support a web site dedicated to the Marston Lads and films of our services have ended up on you tube!

It was nice to remember that we have positive things going on in the village and to be invited to present them to the representatives of the town and parish council representatives

April Gardening jobs

Sunshine and showers

Spring is finally in evidence as daffodils and flowering trees start to bloom. Expect the inevitable April showers this month but with sunny days too, when you can turn your attention to the lawn. It's an exciting month, with indoor-sown seeds well into growth, and it's also time to start sowing outdoors. Just watch out for frosts...Keep weeds under control
Protect fruit blossom from late frosts
Tie in climbing and rambling roses
Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seed outdoors
Start to feed citrus plants
Increase the water given to houseplants
Feed hungry shrubs and roses
Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
Prune fig trees



Quiz about the Month of April

1. What star sign are you if your birthday falls between March 21 and April 19? And what about April 20 - May 20?
2. It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen, is a quote from which book?
3. On what date in April is St George's Day?
4. April is the cruellest month, is the first line of which T.S. Eliot poem?
5. Which major UK sporting event will be held on April 13th, 2024?
6. What is April's birthstone?
7. April's birth flower is often listed as *Bellis perennis* - this is the Latin name of which flower?
8. On which holiday in the United States, on the last Friday in April, are individuals and groups encouraged to plant trees?
9. Which event made British news headlines on the 2nd of April, 1982?
10. April Windsor, played by Amelia Flanagan, is a character in which soap?
11. Which birds' arrival in mid-April, is said to signal the start of Spring?
12. What was first introduced into Britain on the 1 April, 1973?
13. On what date in April was the Late Queen Elizabeth's birthday?



14. The April Lyrids last from April 16 to April 26 each year; what are they?

15. In a famous TV prank from 1957, the BBC broadcast a film showing Swiss farmers picking freshly-grown what?

16. Which famous Englishman's birth remains unknown, but is traditionally observed on the same days as Saint George's Day?



Bird Boxes and Feeders

We have a selection of good quality bird boxes and feeders available; some boxes have been on display and are slightly weathered but are unused. If you would like one, please fill in the form and either give to a Councillor or post in the letter box at the Church Hall by 14th April and they will be delivered to you. If we have more applications than boxes, we will draw from a hat!



Name	
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Address	
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Easter egg cheesecake

If you find yourself with a little left over Easter egg chocolate and/or some of those mini-eggs, a great way of using the leftovers is incorporating them into this delicious cheesecake recipe.



Ingredients

- 175 g reduced-fat digestive biscuits, crushed to a coarse powder
- 50 g reduced fat butter melted, plus extra for greasing
- 400 g extra-light cream cheese
- 250 g 0% fat Greek yogurt
- 200 g reduced fat fromage frais
- 100 g caster sugar
- 2 tbsp cornflour
- 2 large free-range eggs, beaten
- 85 g Easter egg chocolate

Step 1. Preheat the oven to 160°C/fan 140°C, grease a 24cm spring-form tin and line with baking paper

Step 2. Mix the crumbs and butter and press in an even layer over the bottom of the tin. Add 25g of the Easter egg, broken into pieces, across the surface. Chill for 15 minutes.

Step 3. Use an electric hand mixer to beat the cream cheese, yogurt and fromage frais until smooth. Add the caster sugar, and beat for 3 minutes until mixed, then beat in the cornflour and the eggs, a little at a time.

Step 4. Pour into the tin and put on a baking sheet in the middle of the oven and bake for 55-60 minutes. The cake should have a wobble in the centre. Turn the oven off and, leaving the door slightly ajar, let the cake cool completely (about 3 hours).

Step 5. Remove from the tin, and decorate with the remaining Easter eggs whole and grated to serve.

Enjoy!



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Potholes!
Not only a modern-day problem!

Please keep reporting them via the Cheshire West and Chester council app. Download for free from your app store.

Easter Family Fun Activities



Easter SEND Sessions

*Sessions available for children and young people with special educational needs and disability & in receipt of benefits related free school meals.

Family Fun

Crafts!



Fun & Floats

New Friends!

3 & 10 APRIL
POOL 10.30AM - 12.00PM
LUNCH & CRAFTS 12.15PM - 1.30PM



Make a splash in one of our Fun and Floats sessions with interactive **floats, balls, and noodles** for all the family. During lunch you can make some Easter decorations to take home and enjoy meeting new friends!*

*Children and young people must be assisted in SEND activities by parents/carers. Pool rules apply. T&Cs apply.

Part of the **Holiday Activity And Food Programme***

*Available for children and young people who are in receipt of benefits related free school meals.



LITTLE ACTORS THEATRE COMPANY

2 - 5 APRIL, Between 10.00AM - 2.00PM

Specialises in providing community based, performing arts activities for children and young people. Drama is an excellent way for children to learn social skills, build confidence and to have fun through drama, games and dance.

Ages 6 - 10



To Book Any Of These **FREE** Sessions

Call 01606 261100

Or Email NorthwichMC@bricoleisure.org

Hall Hire

The Church Hall on Ollershaw Lane is a great place for parties, band practice or events and activities. To hire contact Angie or Angela. Hall costs just £10 per hour to hire.



Angie Kemmett	07977920445
Angela Johnson	07729910045

Answers to the Quiz: 1. Aries. Taurus 2. Nineteen Eighty-Four (by George Orwell) 3. 23rd of April 4. The Waste Land 5. The Grand National (at Aintree) 6. Diamond 7. Daisy 8. Arbour Day 9. Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands 10. Emmerdale 11. The cuckoo 12. VAT (Value Added Tax) 13. 21 April 14. A meteor shower 15. Spaghetti 16. William Shakespeare

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Your Contributions and ideas are welcomed! Please send to the editor or any one of the councillors or even give us a ring.

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Useful Contacts.

Parish Councillors		
Marion Potts	CHAIR 07842894733	marion.potts703@gmail.com
Amanda Nixon	VICE CHAIR 07786135375	hoasisgarden@gmail.com
Phil Carter	07879843900	philandshe@hotmail.co.uk
Dave Collier	07901810558	davecollier87@hotmail.co.uk
Angela Johnson	07729910045	angelazjohnson48@gmail.com
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Gary Hedges	CLERK 07719510225	clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk

Marbury Ward Councillors		
Lynn Gibbon	07581226814	lynn.gibbon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Norman Wright	01606 74788	norman.wright@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Phil Marshall	07917171438	phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk