



# Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council May 2024

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## A word from the editor;

Welcome to our May edition. April lived up to its tradition of April Showers prediction, bringing few spring days and temperatures. Let's hope with two Bank Holidays in May and many planned activities in the area the weather improves. Certainly, the fields and gardens have seen plenty of water.



The Council are continuing to improve the Church Hall with the installation of 5G Wi-Fi for users of the hall, repairs to the guttering and 10 new extra sturdy chairs. The hall is currently a popular venue for hire by bands, groups and parties.

Eight volunteers turned out on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April to litter pick the village for the 'Great British Spring Clean'. Along with the usual discarded cans, bottles, crisp packets etc we collected a Xmas tree, slow cooker and many car parts!



Thank you to everyone who has helped to make our village tidier, not just the volunteers who turned out but all those who regularly collect and dispose of litter.



We now have a second defibrillator for the village installed on Higher Marston Estate thanks to the generous support from Ian and Vicki to have the box situated where it is easy to locate and access.

Access is gained via 999 ambulance service, who will give the unique access code.

Using a Defibrillator seems daunting but it talks you through step by step

and will not shock unless it has registered the need.

Hopefully never needed but reassuring to know it's there.

## **Police and Crime Commissioner Election – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**



Elections are taking place across Cheshire to elect the new Police and Crime Commissioner for the Cheshire Police area. The Cheshire Police Area is made up of the local authority areas of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington. New legislation was introduced by the Government last year, which means that if you are voting at a polling station, you are now required to bring an accepted form of photo ID. You will need to show the photo ID to the polling station staff before a ballot paper can be issued. You can use an expired photo ID. It doesn't matter if the ID you are using has expired so long as the polling station staff can recognise you from the photo.

**As the hall will be used for the election there will be no Chair Exercise Class that day.**

## Remembering D-Day and the Battle of Normandy

The D-Day landings of 6 June 1944 was the largest seaborne invasion in history. Along with the associated airborne operations, it marked the beginning of the liberation of France and western Europe.



We will be commemorating this 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a short service of Remembrance and by the lighting of red lanterns, the light from the flame will represent the ‘light of peace’ that emerged from the darkness of war in tribute to the many millions that sacrificed their lives during WWII. Followed by Afternoon refreshments in the hall and entertainment by ‘The Misfits’.

We hope you will join us on the **6<sup>th</sup> June** at 13.45 for the service at 14.00 and afterwards in the Hall. Make a note in your diary.



**Food waste** isn't just about what we throw away—it's about the resources wasted in producing, transporting, and disposing of food. By reducing waste, we conserve water, energy, and

valuable natural resources. Let's make every bite count and support a more sustainable future. Donate your surplus tins, packets and jars for the green grocery at Tuesday's coffee morning or Thursday's chair exercise class

## May Gardening Jobs.

Summers on its way

As bulbs fade and herbaceous borders grow in leaps and bounds, it is now clear that summer is approaching. Sowing and planting out bedding can begin, depending on regional weather variations, and you can take softwood cuttings. It's also time to get back into the lawn mowing regime, as the lawn will be loving the warmer temperatures this month brings.

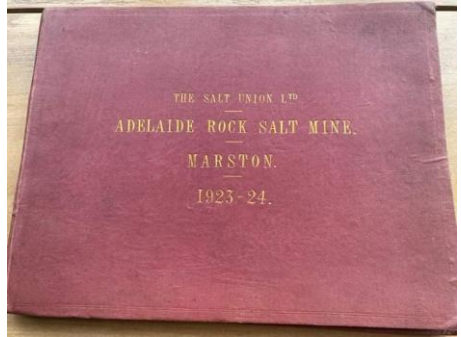


Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants  
Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining  
Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)  
Water early and late to get the most out of your water, recycle water when possible  
Regularly hoe off weeds  
Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days  
Mow lawns weekly  
Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges  
Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs  
Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs



## The Life of a Northwich Salt Mine Pony

This historic Salt Union book is a very interesting read, it covers every aspect of the Adelaide Rock Salt Mine at Marston, from the geology of the mine, to the types of gunpowder and mining tools they used. What is most interesting is the way they lowered the working ponies from the surface into the mine, which was approx. 400ft down a narrow shaft.



The ponies were hooded and fitted in a lifting harness with their legs tied back with retaining ropes. Once lowered into the mines the ponies were well looked after, but sadly usually remained underground for years. The story of Charlie gives us a good insight into the lives of these ponies,

“The stables are situated against a pillar face, near the shafts, there are 4 stalls and 2 loose boxes and provender apartments. Five cobs are generally kept in this mine, their height being approximately 14 to 15 hands. Their age when lowered is from 6/7 years and they continue to work upto 20 years old. Their sight in the mine is good and when brought to the surface, after a few days’ treatment, is actually good.

Example; ‘Charlie’ – a dark bay gelding, lowered into the mine as an 11-year-old, worked in the mine for 13 years, drawn up and worked on the canal bank for one year, the destroyed on reaching his 25<sup>th</sup> year.

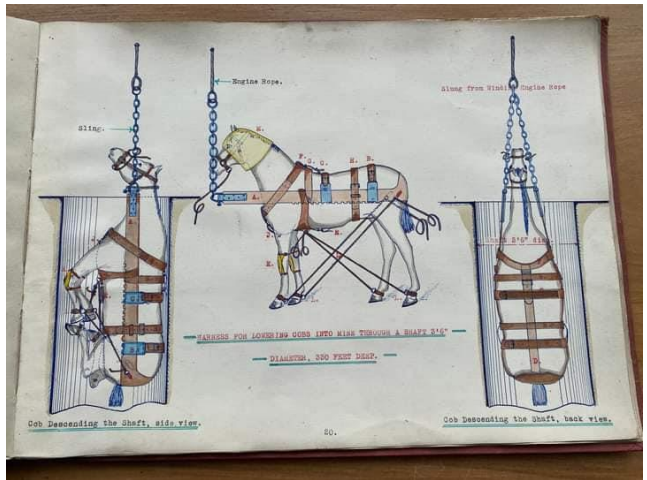


They are well cared for, a stable man is employed and they are regularly groomed, their food is varied as far as possible. That is, in the winter months, their provender consists of chop and an occasional carrot and in the summer months, chop with and additional supply of freshly cut grass, for

bedding, sawdust or straw is used. A fresh supply of drinking water is taken down the mine daily.”



“The cob having arrived on the lower rock house floor, and after the harness has been put on, the winding engine rope is attached to the sling and the engine is put in motion, the cob is lifted up into a vertical position, the hobble ropes being drawn closely in and being made fast at the same time. The cob is now lowered down the shaft, the sole of the mine having been



heavily spread with straw where the cob will land and before it is allowed to get to its feet, most of the harness is removed.

The time for the whole operation is approximately 12/20 minutes to put on the harness, 2 minutes to lower and 10 minutes to remove the harness. The cob is not put to work for at least 3 days, it being exercised along the route it is to work.”



# The Adelaide Marston mine

Adelaide Marston mine, Northwich; depth of a pair of shafts, 330 feet; area of mine, supported on pillars, 9½ acres; pillars 10 yards square and 20 yards apart.” (1881 – J Dickinson, ‘Report on the Salt Districts’, 1882) This terse summary could describe a number of the 61 Northwich salt mines of the mid-19th century, but the Adelaide Mine was different. It held an amazing secret; deep below the soft Cheshire countryside lay huge pink caverns, sparkling with crystalline rock salt, long dark tunnels which came to life in the candle-lit torches of the workers, and an unforgettable experience for its many visitors. The mine opened in 1850, named after the much-loved queen of William IV, Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen. The owners, Messrs Joseph Verdin and sons, realised that they had both a productive salt mine and a tourist attraction. Local people were soon being lowered in the four-man “hoppet” to the depths of the mine to gaze in awe at the unreal scenes of glittering crystals, dark recesses and dancing shadows. On occasions an orchestra played, usually a local orchestra, but sometimes a visiting military band.



Sadly, in 1928, the Adelaide mine, then being in full production, succumbed to the nemesis of many Northwich salt-mines – water. Although the shafts were roofed and protected from rain water, seepage through increasingly large fissures soon ate away at the workings, draining into the caverns and dissolving the massive pillars, until the roofs were undermined and collapsed. The four ponies which hauled the trucks and bogeys could not be rescued, and a Mr Ashbrook was sent down the mine to humanely destroy the animals as the floodwaters rose.



## **We are pleased to share with you Great Budworth School news.**

We have had a very busy Spring term with various trips and fundraising activities. Everyone enjoyed



**GREAT BUDWORTH**  
CE Primary School

World Book Day on 7<sup>th</sup> March. This year, we took bedtime reading as our theme & children came to school in their pyjamas & brought in their favourite book & a photo of them reading in a different way or place. We've had some fantastic photos, reading upside down, under the stairs (like Harry Potter) & even in the boot of the car (whilst parked of course). We are making a collage of the photos & drawings of their favourite book covers.

Our school council organised two cakes sales for Comic Relief & everyone had their red noses on in school.

Our older children visited the Air Raid Shelters in Stockport at the end of March. An interesting experience as they are studying WW2 in their history & literacy classes. Before the trip, they made their own gas mask boxes (for their packed lunch) and evacuee labels. They also dressed in clothes reflecting the era. Our thanks go to Mrs Dianne Green for supplying perfect size boxes, recycled from work.

Otters class, years 1, 2 & 3 visited The Lowry Arts centre to participate in a workshop based on the works of L S Lowry. They produced some lovely artwork & learnt a lot about the artist himself.

As the Easter holidays approached, the children prepared for our Easter Service on the last day of term and enjoyed egg rolling, Easter bonnet & Egg Pun model making competitions. It was all eggremely good fun. Our thanks to the Friends of the School for organising all the prizes & our popular Easter Bingo, for all the families.

School reopened on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Our Summer term will be another busy

one with a Residential to Tattenhall for Otters class, the whole school participating in ‘Northwich Sings’ at the Brio Leisure Centre, SATS exams for the year 6’s & their transition days to High School. We will be planning for our Olympic themed Sports week in June & welcoming our summer intake to our pre-school nursery. Our return from the Easter Break also meant it was Miss Perry’s first day as our new Executive Head Teacher for both Antrobus St Marks and Great Budworth Primary Schools. Miss Perry has been with Antrobus since September 2012 and progressed her role over the years to Deputy Head and more recently as Acting Head Teacher. She will now be overseeing the Federation of both Antrobus and Great Budworth ensuring both schools continue to grow and collaborate together. She will be primarily based at Antrobus but will have a presence at Great Budworth each week working alongside Mrs Corradine who is the Head of School and responsible for the day to day running of Great Budworth.

We will be holding an Open morning on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 from 10am until 12noon and at Great Budworth, we treat every day as an Open Day so please feel free to make an appointment via the school office if you are looking for a new school or nursery setting.

Our thanks go to Marion Potts & the Parish Council for their support of the school & for displaying our new advertising banner. We are looking forward to contributing to the Marston Murmurs on a regular basis in the future.



## May Quiz

- 1) What is the longest river in the world?
- 2) Which King of England was crowned on Christmas Day?
- 3) What is the name of Daniel Craig's first James Bond film?
- 4) What is the name of Paloma Faith's latest album, released in 2020?
- 5) Which famous graffiti artist comes from Bristol?
- 6) What is the deepest lake in the world?
- 7) In 2020, McFly reunited and released a new album. Name the four band members.
- 8) Which part of the atom has no electric charge?
- 9) What is the national dish of Spain?
- 10) What colour are the seats in the House of Commons?
- 11) What is the chemical symbol for silver?
- 12) How many stripes are there on the US flag?
- 13) Which is longer, a nautical mile or a mile?
- 14) What is rapper P Diddy's real name?
- 15) At which venue is the F1 British Grand Prix held?
- 16) Which boy's name was the title of the debut album released by Amy Winehouse?
- 17) What is the slang name for New York City, used by locals?



18) Gillian Anderson plays a therapist in which hit Netflix show?

19) What colour pill does Neo swallow in The Matrix?

20) Does a record turntable revolve clockwise or anti-clockwise?

Answers on P15



Admission Adult: £5.00 Child: Free

Opening times 10:00 - 16:00 Refreshments

Home-made teas.



Hazel opens her gardens at home for the NGS and to date has raised over £30,000 for the charity.

This has been thanks to the generosity not just of those who visit the gardens here, but also in part due to the matched funding scheme Barclays run where they will match monies raised for charity events supported by their staff.

The garden has undergone a lot of changes over the past 24 months, the vegetable garden has been renovated, alterations to the rear of the main garden have brightened the area & given new focal points and there are new feature planters among other smaller changes. This farm and rose nursery have been in the family for over 80 years, specialising in roses & hardy shrubs. The garden has been planted and has evolved over the years since we moved in in 1978 when my husband and I took over the farm. It is a country garden with roses, rhododendron, camellia and various shrubs, bulbs and herbaceous plants. There is also a small veg garden, pond and access to the rose fields through the garden. The short walk from the car park passes through the family rose nursery, past our geese and into the farm and gardens. The family own and operate a traditional rose nursery adjacent to the property which is open 7 days a week with a percentage of all sales on open days donated to the NGS. The rose fields are also open through June and July and visitors are welcome to have a walk and see all the varieties in full bloom.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June

All Fours Farm

Colliers Lane

Aston by Budworth

Northwich,

Cheshire CW9 6NF



**Anderton Boat Lift,**  
Lift Lane  
Northwich  
Cheshire CW9 6FW

Join us for a stunning steam spectacular when a mighty fleet of traction engines meets a flotilla of vintage steamboats under the Anderton Boat Lift!

This event is free to attend.

**Saturday 11 May  
(10am-10pm) &  
Sunday 12 May  
(10am-4.30pm)**

Join us for a stunning steam spectacular when a fleet of magnificent traction engines meets a flotilla of vintage steamboats under the iconic Anderton Boat Lift!



A Real Ale Festival taking place all weekend hosted by the 1903 steamship The Daniel Adamson. See the glory of steam in action with the Cheshire Live Steamers miniature engines. Enjoy a unique behind-the-scenes 'Walking the Lift' Tour. Delicious hot and cold food & BBQ available all weekend. Licensed bars and craft beers.

There'll also be self-led children's activities all weekend as well as 'Make & Take' LEGO workshops with The Brick Consultant on Sunday at 10.30am, 12pm, 1.30pm, 3pm). £10/session

## 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

1) The Nile 2) William I 3) Casino Royale 4) Infinite Things 5) Banksy 6) Lake Baikal in Russia 7) Tom Fletcher, Danny Jones, Harry Judd and Dougie Poynter 8) Neutron 9) Paella 10) Green 11) Ag 12) 13 13) A mile 14) Sean John Combs 15) Silverstone 16) Frank 17) Gotham 18) Sex Education 19) Red 20) Clockwise.

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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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