



Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

March 2025



A word from the Editor.

As we spring in to March, we are enjoying the longer daylight hours and the variable weather patterns of this time of year. We are renowned across the world for being obsessed by the weather here in Great Britain but can you blame us when we have such variations! The daffodils are on their way out and we should soon see the displays around the Churchyard and triangle at Four Lanes Junction.



We are very pleased to report the fingerpost at Four lanes junction on the triangle has been awarded Grade II listing by Historic England. The Parish Council funded the restoration in 2022 and applied for the listing to protect and conserve the fingerpost.

We will be commemorating VE day 80th anniversary on the 8th May this year, (a date for your diary) and looking forward to organising other events later in the year.

From CWAC Councillors budget we are installing a smart TV in the hall, which will be available for conferences, meetings and other events and have purchased two remembrance ‘Tommy’ statues to stand by the War Memorial in the Churchyard. We would like to thank Lynn Gibbon, Norman Wright and Phil Marshall for their continued support and dedication to improving the Marbury ward.



Marston
1840 map.

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Due to changes in legislation, waste upholstered domestic seating will now only be accepted at Chester, Ellesmere Port and Winsford HWRCs. It will no longer be accepted at Frodsham, Neston, Northwich and Tattenhall HWRCs.

Waste upholstered domestic seating includes:

- 👉 Sofas, sofa beds and armchairs
- 👉 Upholstered kitchen and dining room chairs
- 👉 Home office chairs
- 👉 Stools and footstools
- 👉 Bean bags, floor or sofa cushions
- 👉 Futons
- 👉 Any other upholstered item that can

reasonably be described as a form of seating used by households and to which relevant fire regulations apply (which might include child car seats, highchairs and benches)

Recent fly tipping on the lay-by on Marston Lane at the bottom of Higher Marston Estate.



Higher Marston estate hedges have been cut and look much better, recent changes to hedge cutting guidelines recommend cut every other year, or better still one year in 3. Cutting or trimming is permitted from 1 March to 31 August in the following situations. Public and private rights of way, the hedgerow overhangs a highway, road or footpath over

which there is a public or private right of way and the overhanging hedgerow: obstructs the passage of users or is a danger to users, obstructs the view of such users or obstructs the light from a public lamp.



8th Feb 2025.

Overnight incident on Higher Marston estate. After taking out the road sign and wall, a black Astra was seen driven down Fernlea Road, turned and went down Vale Road.

Police have caught the offender and there is an incident no. if any damage done to vehicles.

No 1 Fernlea have the number

The car damaged garden walls at no 1 and 3 Fernlea Road.

There have been concerns raised over a number of years regarding the speed of traffic along the A559. Despite numerous approaches to highways, and a speed reduction to 50mph, there are still concerns and incidents relating to speed along this

road. Speed reductions are difficult to obtain as within current guidelines there are specific criteria to be met to warrant a further speed reduction. Unfortunately, the A559 doesn't meet these. We will continue to monitor and request the speed reduction at every opportunity.

Cheshire West and Chester Council

We want to better understand the issues relating to freight and logistics in the borough, and would like to hear the views of anyone who moves goods, relies on freight or is affected by freight movements. Please complete our survey 👉

<http://cwac.co/4Izsi>

Understanding freight and deliveries in West Cheshire

Your voice matters!

Take our short survey to enhance our understanding of the freight sector in the borough

Cheshire West and Chester

Taken from Wincham Parish Post.

The site of the former Black Greyhound

We have received information back from the Planning Enforcement officers re this building and planning application.

“We can advise that no Enforcement Order has been issued in respect of the site, but an enforcement case has been logged for investigation.

We carried out site visit and it is apparent that the planning permission granted under applications 17/03244/OUT and 21/02795/REM is not being implemented on site.

Whilst an alternative application was recently submitted to the Council for the change of use of the public house to a dwelling – unfortunately the application ‘type’ was incorrect and so we have liaised with the landowner’s planning agent in this respect and advised that a full planning application would be required. We understand therefore that a revised application is to be submitted, and the Parish Council will of course be notified of this.

We have spoken with the landowner over the telephone to advise that no planning permission currently exists for any proposed change of use/the rear extension currently being constructed. They have, therefore, been advised that any continued works are undertaken at their own risk until such time any planning permission may be granted.”

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, a special exhibition is on at the Lion Salt Works and will run until April 27th, paying tribute to the people who have made it a success over the years, from its salt-producing days to its current status as an award-winning visitor attraction.

Regarded as one of the best museums in Cheshire, thousands of visitors flock to Northwich every year to learn about the structure’s unique history and heritage. Have you been to the Lion Salt Works?





In December 2024, the Government published a White Paper setting out its commitment to devolution across England. Devolution is about recognising that local leaders know their regions best and sets out how devolution would provide new powers and money to invest in the things that are important to our residents, communities and businesses. This has provided us with the foundation for more detailed conversations with government about the potential new powers and funding our region could receive.

Devolution could offer us many opportunities, and it has to be right for our region; the people living and working here, our communities and our businesses. We will create opportunities for you to give us your views about devolution and what is important to you. Cheshire and Warrington has been confirmed as part of the Government’s devolution priority programme. This means that the region’s outline plans to set up a Combined Authority and hold mayoral elections in May 2026 have been accepted by government. A final decision will be made by the three councils later this year.

Devolution is about national government transferring powers and resources away from London and into regions. It’s not about merging councils or taking decisions away from councils. Individual councils would retain their current responsibilities and continue to provide services for local people



Information taken from the Historic England report produced for the Grade II Listing.

The guidepost at Higher Marston dates from the early C20 and pre-dates 1922. It stands in its original position on a village green at the crossroad junction of Marston Lane (the A559 Lostock Gralam to Warrington Road), Ollershaw Lane (B5075), and Dark Lane. The cast-iron guidepost is of a high-quality design that has well-

detailed direction fingers incorporating raised lettering, scalloped outer corners (only straight ends were permitted after 1933), integral spandrel brackets, paired shaft loops, and a post finial taking the form of a pawn chess piece. It is of particular interest because it demonstrates the standardisation of design during the early C20 in response to the Motor Car Act of 1903, and the issuing of design guidance by the Local Government Board in 1904. The guidepost pre-dates changes introduced in 1922 that required all new direction fingers to display road classification numbers; these features are not present on this guidepost. Although several guideposts survive in Cheshire, nationally guideposts from all periods are rare.

Map regression shows that there has been a guidepost at the same position at Higher Marston since at least 1877. The current guidepost is situated at the crossroads adjacent to Lane-ends Farm; it was designed and cast by W H Smith & Co (Whitchurch) Ltd and was once of a common type used throughout Cheshire. The company traded from 1842 until 1937, and it is believed that this fingerpost was produced before 1922, after which it was a requirement for road classification numbers to be displayed on the direction fingers. The design has several features that distinguishes it from guideposts produced elsewhere in the country, including the chess pawn style finial, the cast fingers with spandrel brackets, and the scalloped ends of the fingers. During the late C20 and early C21, the fingerpost deteriorated due to a lack of maintenance, with the loss of the

finger that pointed to Lostock Gralam and Northwich, due to the rusting and breaking of securing bolts, and the additions of a modern brown tourist sign and a farm sign attached with metallic strap clamps. It followed more standardised forms, will only be listable if they contribute significantly to a conservation area or the setting of a listed building, and display high levels of intrinsic interest. Although some examples of street furniture hold considerable historic and architectural interest in their own right; the case for designation is considerably strengthened by association with other examples of the street scene

History; Guideposts or fingerposts were once a very common roadside feature throughout the United Kingdom, providing directions for travellers at junctions and, in some cases, distances as well. From the 1860s onwards their numbers grew, particularly following the County Council Act of 1888. The Motor Car Act of 1903 passed responsibility for the provision of all traffic signs to local authorities and increased standardisation of design followed the issuing of design guidance by the Local Government Board in 1904. With the introduction of motor cars, increased legibility became of paramount importance; in 1921 the Ministry of Transport advocated the standardisation of black lettering on white backgrounds, and in 1933, new rules came into force that required the lettering on the fingers to be black capital letters set against a white background; the fingers to have straight corners, and that the posts to which the fingers were attached, should have a black and white paint scheme.

The increase in road traffic following the First World War brought about a further change, which resulted in new or replacement fingerposts being required to display the road classification and number. Cast-iron plates displaying the road numbers were also often attached to earlier fingerposts, using connectors or clamps.

During the Second World War the direction fingers were removed from the fingerposts as an anti-invasion contingency, to confuse any would-be invaders. Post-war most were re-instated, but not all. After 1965, new standardised graphic aluminium signs were introduced under the auspices of the Worboys Committee, resulting in most fingerposts and cast-iron signs being taken down and sold for scrap.



Great Budworth School News

I cannot believe we will be counting down to Easter this next half term. It feels like we have just celebrated Christmas – ‘Time flies when you’re having fun!’ What a fun and productive half term we have

experienced and are grateful for!

Some highlights of the past few weeks have been: Forest School – where the children have been making bird tables & feeders out of wooden branches, twigs and string & learning about the different birds and their feeding habits.

Our year 5 and 6 children have been swimming as part of their PE curriculum, which will continue for the second half of the Spring term.

We have celebrated Chinese New Year – The year of the Snake and Valentine’s Day too.

On Thursday 6th February we came to school dressed in numbers to support NSPCC’s Number Day. Each class explored a ‘number’ of mathematical activities and number-based games throughout the day. Together our school raised £30 for the NSPCC

We celebrated Children Mental Health Week by taking part in an assembly with the School of Kindness (www.schoolofkindness.org). We learnt about what mental health is, why it’s important and the many different ways we can improve our mental health. We also heard about this year’s theme, which is Know Yourself, Grow Yourself! And finally, we chatted about the importance of kindness – to ourselves and to others. Class 1 have rounded off their half term with a class visit to ‘Imagine That’ in Liverpool. A school trip where all topics of STEAM are covered while having fun! They explored the different zones of Imagine That! Strolled through the streets of the Imagination Village, got creative in Art Beatz and had a STEM-sational time in science! The full range of activities included:

Slime making

Bath Bomb making

Sensory adventure science show

Never melting magical snow workshop

Fridge magnet painting

What a fantastic experience for the children!

Thank you to Mrs Phoenix and Mrs Gould for organising the Parents Information meetings on reading. Both meetings, one for class 1 based on phonics and early reading and for class 2 how we teach guided reading using Pathways to Read were well attended and feedback reported to be valuable and worthwhile. Thank you to FOTS, whose fundraising helped support this valuable resource.

We are continuing to grow in number and welcome new families into our Budworth School family. We are delighted that when people visit our school, they recognise what a special place Great Budworth is. With this in mind, we hope for our school to continue to grow and for all of the children and families to flourish together.

Some dates for your diary;

Thursday 6th March – FOTS Family Beetle drive – doors open 5.30pm for 6pm start.

Thursday 3rd April – FOTS Easter Bingo - doors open 5.30pm for 6pm start. Easter egg donations always appreciated.

Wednesday 23rd Open Afternoon for prospective nursery & school places 1.30pm - 3pm.

Best Wishes from all at Team GB!

Garden News Spring arrives

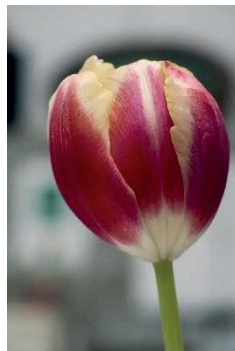
Spring usually starts to arrive across the country in March, and the longer days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks. It's time to get busy preparing seed beds and sowing seed, and it's your last chance to prune roses.

Garden

Pick off any developing seedheads on daffodils and other spring bulbs, but leave the foliage to die back naturally

Cut dogwoods, willows, cotinus and paulownia right down to the base to promote vigorous new growth

Tidy up alpines as they start to flower, removing dead foliage, then mulch with grit to keep the foliage off damp soil



Plant faded forced bulbs out in the garden for blooms next year
Plant lilies and other summer-flowering bulbs in pots and borders.
Tidy up borders, removing established and newly-germinating weeds.
Mulch borders generously with garden compost
Plant new roses and other shrubs and climbers
Sow wildflower seeds in trays or modules, to produce plants for your own mini-meadow
Check tender new shoots for aphids, and remove before infestations get out of hand
Continue deadheading spring flowers and any remaining winter bedding so they don't set seed

Greenhouse

Sow sweet peas in deep pots and keep them frost-free in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill

Sow tomatoes, chillies, sweet peppers and aubergines in pots indoors

Start hoeing veg beds as soon as the weather starts to warm up, as weeds will germinate quickly

Take cuttings from dahlia tubers planted last month to raise new plants

Take basal cuttings from perennials, such as delphiniums and lupins, to root in a pot indoors

Plant prepared freesia bulbs in pots of rich, loam-based compost, for fragrant flowers indoors this summer

Protect greenhouse sowings of peas, mangetouts and sweet peas from hungry mice

Open greenhouse vents on sunny days to prevent humidity building up.

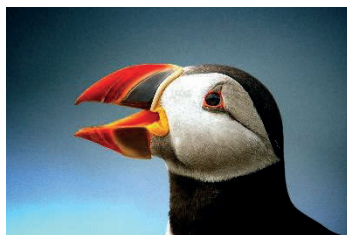
Be vigilant for greenhouse and houseplant pests, such as mealy bugs, and treat straight away



Spring Quiz

Animals

1. Puffins return to British shores from warmer counties during April and May to have their young, what is a baby puffin called?



- a) Puffchick b) Puffling c) Puffinette
2. Bumblebees will start to emerge from hibernation during spring, sometimes as early as February. On average, how large are bumblebee colonies?
 a) 400 workers b) 20,000 workers c) 1000 workers
3. The UK's most common bat the pipistrelle, can be seen on a warm spring evening. How much does the common pipistrelle bat weigh?
 a) 400 grams (the same as a tin of beans) b) 50 grams (the same as two fun size cereal boxes) c) 5 grams (the same as a 20p piece)
4. Ewes can recognise up to 50 different sheep faces, but how long do you remember them for?
 a) A week b) A month c) 2 years



Spring Celebrations

5. When is Easter Celebrated?
 a) First Sunday following the full moon of the vernal equinox b) The first Sunday in April c) When the chocolate companies decided
6. What is the name of the Jewish celebration of spring?
 a) Spring Fling b) Passover c) Lent
7. When was the first recorded use of the words 'spring cleaning'?
 a) 1857 b) 1905 c) 1989
8. What will happen if you stand on the equator on the first day of spring?
 a) You will grow an extra 2cm taller b) The sun will pass directly over your head c) You will get really warm

Spring Flowers

9. Which flower has varieties that include triumph, fringed and parrot?
 a) Tulip b) Crocus c) Snowdrop
10. Where does the hyacinth get its name?
 a) Greek Mythology b) An explorer in the 1800s c) Someone just thought it was pretty
11. Which ancient flowering tree evolved before bees existed?
 a) Pine b) Cherry c) Magnolia
12. Which colour of flowers are often more strongly scented than their peers?
 a) White b) Purple c) blue

Cheshire Folk comes to Marston

October '24, I arrived at my new home in Higher Marston. I've been organising Cheshire Folk for almost 20 years. I was involved with the original Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival and still run a small festival 'Folk at the Lock' and of course I knew the lovely Iain Stead, Jayne and the girls, we worked many events together. I'm friends with Bev Dean who organises the Saltworks Sessions, all of us sharing a love of live and local music from the folk world and beyond.

So – why Pete Morton, Pete and I have been friends for years. He joined us for Folk at the Lock last summer. He's a folk troubadour; he told me about 'The Ghost of a Sailor's Talking Blues' I said we'd love to hear it. An unruly mix of storytelling, comedy and song, Pete's powerful, euphonious voice, compelling stage presence, fun loving and approachable style, humanism, politics, love, social commentary and humour, all wrapping and often 'frapping' his unique way around the folk tradition.

Supporting Pete, **Bitter and Twisted**, me and my singing husband David Giles. I've always said I was blessed with two husbands for better or for worse! David is married to another, once he asked her if she thought we might be having an affair, spending time at folk clubs and festivals together and she responded with 'no dear, Liz would never put up with you!' Singing a variety of our favourite songs, from folk to blues and Americana, Eddi Reader to Richard Thompson with humour, banter and a few of my favourite 'girlie' songs, all with stunning harmonies and David's exceptional guitar playing! I hope you will come and join us as we bring our best singing voices to Marston.

Tickets for 'The Ghost of a Sailor's Talking Blues' with support from Bitter and Twisted £10 from Liz (Marston residents 2 tickets for £18)
Mob:07962531521 lizrosenfield@cheshirefolk.com

*An evening with Pete
Morton*

and

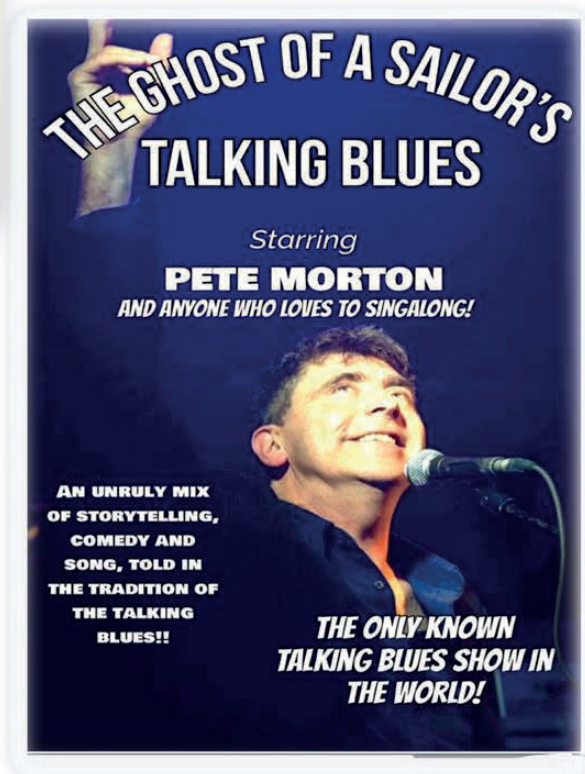
Bitter and Twisted

Saturday March 15 2025

MARSTON VILLAGE HALL NORTHWICH



It's a 'bring your own booze'
night





The Chair Exercise Class has a new time of 10am on Wednesdays, Please join us for fun exercise which can be done by all ages and abilities. £5 per class.

Answers

1. Puffling (b)
2. 400 workers (a)
3. 5g (c)
4. 2 years (c)
5. The first Sunday following the full moon of the vernal equinox (a)
6. Passover (b)
7. 1857 (a)
8. The sun will pass directly over your head (b)
9. Tulip (a)
10. Greek Mythology (a)
11. Magnolia (c)
12. White (a)

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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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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

Signature:  (Feb 24, 2025 13:28 GMT)

Email: clerk@marstonparishcouncil.gov.uk







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Final Audit Report

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